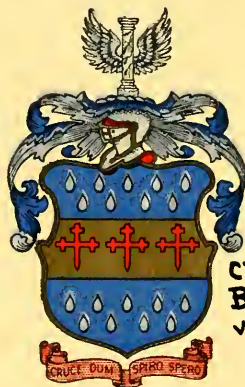




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THE
MEMOIRS
OF
Mrs. Sophia Baddeley,
LATE OF DRURY LANE THEATRE.

BY
MRS. ELIZABETH STEELE.

IN SIX VOLUMES.

VOL. III.

L O N D O N :

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THE HISTORY OF THE

REIGN OF

CHARLES THE FIRST

BY

JOHN BURNET

OF THE UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

IN TWO VOLUMES

LONDON

Printed by J. Streater, in Strand

1699

By Authority

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1699

THE
MEMOIRS

OF

Mrs. Sophia Baddeley.

WE now began to think of the masquerade ; and we settled it that Mrs. Baddeley should go in the character of Juliet, and I in that of the Nurse. Her dress made up upon this occasion, was a rich white sattin, beautifully pucker'd with a veil of fine gauze, trimmed all round with a broad rich point-lace,

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which had a pretty effect. Upon the whole it was so elegant, that I can venture to say, so beautiful a Juliet, was never before seen. I had a full pink sattin petticoat, trimmed with a deep point, a black silk gown tied back, and large pinnars of old point-lace on my head, quite in character. The point I borrowed, through the favour of Mr. Garrick. Before we entered the Ball-room, I begged the favour of Mrs. Baddeley not to unmask, and for some time she obliged me. Our dresses were much admired, but no sooner had she her mask off, than she attracted the attention of the whole room; even the ladies that night, could not help saying many things in her praise. I never took
off

off my mask, but it was sufficiently known who I was, being in company with her. This was a ball given by a subscription of the nobility; it was splendid and superb to the utmost; and the attention universally shewn us by men of the first rank, in bringing us refreshments, &c. was exceedingly flattering, but absolutely troublesome. At this masquerade none were admitted but by tickets, given away privately by the subscribers. Every person almost of rank and fortune then in town was present, and as all vied with each other, in splendor of dress, it was the most brilliant assembly of the kind that ever was seen. The consequence of Mrs. Baddeley being at the masquerade, was,

that the next day, our knocker was going from morning till evening; but as we gave orders to be denied to all, we had only their names to read. Among the many that called to pay their respects were, the Dukes of Northumberland, Ancafter, and Queensberry; Lords Harrington, Lincoln, Clanbrazil, Winchelsea, Falmouth, Pigot; Mr. R. Conway, &c. and the news-papers did not omit to mention many others.

Having been engaged to dine this day with Mr. Cafwell; and Mrs. Baddeley having, or affecting to have, a sick head-ach, I was obliged to apologize, and excuse ourselves. I say *affecting to have*, for Doctor Eliot, who attended
her

her that morning, advised her, as she said, to take an airing, and I believe she pretended to be un-well, in order to keep an appointment she had made with Mr. Storer the night before, at the masquerade, whilst I was dancing with Mr. Conway; for, when we entered Hyde-Park, Mr. Storer came up to the coach on foot, saying, he had been rambling in the air all the morning. She asked him into the carriage, and he came in, rode once or twice round the Park with us, and on our return home, we set him down in Piccadilly.

Mrs. Baddeley never omitted to go to every public place of resort, frequented by the nobility and people of

fashion, and her admission was never opposed but once, of which I will give my reader the particulars.

When the Pantheon was first opened with concerts, &c. the proprietors wished to exclude every person, but those of rank and fortune; and by no means to admit any women of slight character, or any of the players. Mrs. Baddeley being then on the stage, and of some consequence among them; she was with some others, pointed out as an improper person to be admitted. This getting to the ears of Mr. William Hanger, Mr. R. Conway, and some few more of her friends, they met at Almack's on the occasion, and twenty
of

of the nobility agreed to attend at the Pantheon, at the door she designed to enter at, determining that nothing should prevent her admittance. They accordingly requested of us to go the first evening it was opened, in chairs; for as an extra number of constables were ordered to attend, and as chairs were admitted under the Portico, it would be better in case of a riot, than to expose our carriage and horses to the insolence of a mob. I was to get out of my chair first, and Mrs. Baddeley was to follow. When we reached the place, I believe there were fifty gentlemen in waiting, ready to protect us; with swords by their sides: and when I got out, I passed the constables uninterrupted, but

as

as soon as Mrs. Baddeley got out of her chair, all the constables staves were crossed ; and, pulling of their hats, they with their civility, said, their orders were to admit no players. At this instant, every gentleman there present, the greatest part of whom were noblemen, drew their swords, and declared one and all, that if they did not instantly make way, and let her pass, they would run them through. Way was immediately made, and Mrs. Baddeley and I were handed in, without any interruption. But the matter ended not here, for the gentlemen would not sheath their swords, nor suffer the music to play, till the managers came to ask Mrs. Baddeley's pardon, for the insult
shewn

shewn her. The ladies then began to enquire into the cause of this disturbance, and the Duchefs of Argyle, now Duchefs of Hamilton came forward; and was pleased to say, she was much surprized at so gross an insult being offered to Mrs. Baddeley, who was an ornament to any place, she was seen in; and it gave her a particular pleasure to see her in public at all times. Lady Hertford joined in the same opinion. At last the managers were glad to make their appearance, and not only ask Mrs. Baddeley's pardon, but the pardon of all the gentlemen who stood forth in her behalf, and received a severe reprimand for their conduct. So that the ladies of the Theatres, and many others,

have

have to thank Mrs. Baddeley for their present admission. Mrs. Baddeley, with a becoming modesty, returned her grateful thanks to those ladies of fashion, who politely chastized the managers for their behaviour, then wishing to apologize for the orders they had given, but they were not suffered to say a word in their defence. Mrs. Abington, (who waited the event of Mrs. Baddeley's reception, and to whom we immediately sent an account of what had happened), presently made her appearance, and the evening was no longer interrupted.

Lord Melbourne coming to acquaint us that he should leave town the next day, for a week; desired Mrs. Baddeley
would

would get well in his absence, and told me, on his return he would look into some accounts I mentioned to him. Mrs. Baddeley was not a little pleased he was going, as she called such times her holidays; and as soon as he was gone, she cried, "Now the devil take the doctors!" "I'll not see one of them, but go and see Hampton-Court, and Windsor; which I have not seen for some years; and I will take as much pleasure, as the week will afford." Of course, we ordered the coach and four, and the next morning at ten set off for Hampton. But, before we went, she contrived to let Captain Fawcner know, that she would call at Richmond; for when we came to Kew-bridge, she said, she

she longed for some maids of honour at Richmond, (which were cheese-cakes, there sold under that name,) “ It is “ not much out of our way, do let’s “ go?” We went, and who should we see at the Pastry-cook’s, but the Captain; which she declared to me was accidental: but I did not believe it, as one of our maids, had set off that morning at six o’clock; under the idea of a holiday; and I am firmly convinced, she was dispatched to him. We staid and dined at the Castle, and being obliged to write back to town, for something I had forgot, Captain Fawkner and Mrs. Baddeley walked into the garden; which I was sorry for afterwards. We continued all night, and Mrs. Baddeley slept with

with me. Next morning Captain Fawc-
ner breakfasted with us, and after break-
fast we pursued our journey alone, to
Hampton-court; and thence to Wind-
sor, where we dined. Before dinner
we went to see the Castle, and on en-
tering it, a young gentleman accosted us,
whose name was Captain Pigot; he
begged to escort Mrs. Baddeley through
the apartments. This gentleman ac-
companied us to the inn, and left us.
Having enquired of our people, whe-
ther we had any company; and finding
us alone, he sent his compliments, and
begged the favour, we would admit
him to dine with us. Mrs. Baddeley
said, "Let him; he is a civil young man;
"I know he is a relation of Lord Pigot's."

I consented, and we sent him word, we should be happy in his company. He was a man of very engaging manners, was very warm in his praises of Mrs. Baddeley, and said, he should bless the hour he was so fortunate as to be at the Castle, and record it, as the happiest of his life. It being too late to think of returning to town, we ordered a bed, and determined to stay all night. Cards were proposed, but as there were but three, I recollected having an old school-fellow married in this town, whom I proposed to invite, to make up a party at whist; Captain Pigot offered to wait on her, with our compliments; we consented, and he brought her to us; she staid supper,

per, and invited us to breakfast the next morning, and Captain Pigot also. This lady and her husband, Mr. Herbert, lived on their fortune, in an elegant stile, and very politely received and entertained both us and our horses; which they insisted should be brought from the inn, having prevailed on us to stay a day or two with them. The Captain was each day of the party. The next morning we went for an airing to Salt-hill, where we met Mr. Damer, and a party of his friends. On our return, Mr. Herbert having invited some neighbours, musically inclined, we had a concert; and Mrs. Baddeley's singing was a treat to them. We staid at Mr. Herbert's two days, and on our

taking leave of him, gave him and his lady an invitation to London, which they promised to accept the first opportunity.

Before we had got two miles from Windsor, in our way to town, Captain Pigot overtook us, said he was going to London, and begged to accompany us, which we declined, under a pretence of not going there that day, intending to spend the evening with a friend upon the road; but, told him, we should be happy to see him in town. Our carriage and livery being so well known by our friends, we seldom went any where, but we were accosted by some one or other. In our way on, at Colnbrook, as we
stopped

stopped to water our horses, a Mr. St. Alban, a young gentleman, whom Mrs. Baddeley knew, when she lived with her father, asked her how she did: she seemed happy to renew her old acquaintance, and on his asking us to alight and take some refreshment, we consented. This young man was going to Oxford; and saying, he should stop at Henley to dine, Mrs. Baddeley asked him if it was a pleasant place, and how he meant to go? He replied, it was a delightful place, and he was going to hire a chaise to carry him. Now as Henley was but eighteen miles from Colnbrook, she said, as she was out upon a frolick, if it was agreeable to me, she

would accompany him there, and save him the expence of a chaise. Mr. St. Alban was much delighted with this, and urging me not to oppose, I agreed to go. We went there and dined, and after dinner, going to see a grotto, in Lady Aylesbury's garden, said to be the workmanship of her own hands; on our return, we met with Mr. John Hanger, then down on a visit to his father. He had heard of our being at the Red Lion at Henley, and came purposely to see Mrs. Baddeley, who received him very coolly. He addressed himself to Mr. St. Alban, who was a stranger to him, and begged leave to dine with us. The young gentleman did not know what to say upon the occasion,

caſion, but replied, “With great pleaſure, if it is agreeable to the ladies.” Indeed it was far from being agreeable to me, though I ſaid nothing; and Mrs. Baddeley did not ſeem to like it, though ſhe did not oppoſe it. He dined with us, and ſeemed to envy Mr. St. Alban, to whom Mrs. Baddeley paid great attention, in order to mortify Mr. Hanger. When dinner was over, Mr. Hanger requested leave to aſk me a queſtion alone. I laughed, and ſaid, as I had no ſecrets, he might aſk the queſtion in company. I was perſwaded it was only to aſk me, who Mr. St. Alban was, and therefore I would not gratify him. He then took out his pencil, and wrote, “Who is this gentleman,” on a
piece

piece of paper ; on which I replied, with the use of the same pencil, “ A man
 “ of great fortune, whom Mrs. Baddeley
 “ is very fond of.” On reading this, he threw it into the fire, and flapped his head, saying, it ached very much. Mrs. Baddeley smiled, and looked at me. The gentleman, I believe, thought him a little out of his mind, and stared at him much. At this, Mrs. Baddeley moved, and drew her chair, nearer to her friend. Mr. Hanger, who could bear this no longer, flew forward, and sat down near her, and said, if his life was at stake, he must tell that gentleman, that his love and affection for Mrs. Baddeley, had a right to her attention, and he could not suffer himself
 to

to be thus treated. The young gentleman seemed thunder-struck. But Mrs. Baddeley winking at him, and he conceiving Mr. Hanger was out of his mind, and taking this wink as a confirmation of the fact, got up and handed him a glass of water, with "Please to drink this, Sir, it will do you good." "No, Sir," retorts he, angrily, "I shall not drink it, I am not accustomed to water. It is you that makes me wretched." "Me, Sir?" said the young gentleman, "On what account?" "Because," replied he, "Mrs. Baddeley shews so much attention to you, and so little to me." We laughed immoderately, and Mr. St. Alban returned, that he was certainly hap-

py in Mrs. Baddeley's notice, whom he had known from her childhood; and had he an empire to give, he would lay it at her feet. This made Mr. Hanger almost distracted. Mrs. Baddeley told him, she blushed for him, and was quite ashamed for his behaviour, and requested he would not offend a gentleman, whom she considered as her friend, and for whom she had the highest esteem. "O God!" says he, "my dear Baddeley, say no more of that, I shall go distracted!" On this, Mrs. Baddeley became more serious, and thus addressed him. "Mr. Hanger, how can you make yourself so ridiculous? Have you not, by your cruel conduct, brought on me more trouble
" than

“than ever I had in my life? Is it
“your study to make my life wretched?
“If it is, you shall find yourself disap-
“pointed.” To this Mr. St. Alban
said, with a becoming spirit, “Sir, if
“you do not immediately desist from a
“conversation that I find gives Mrs.
“Baddeley pain, you must answer it
“to *me*, for I am determined to protect
“her;” and, then turning to Mrs.
Baddeley, said, “Mind him not, my
“dear angel, you have nothing to fear
“whilst I am present.” Mr. Hanger
then went to the other part of the room,
and pretended to weep; convinced it
was the only way to affect her, whom
he wished to affect; but, she took no
notice of it. Mr. St. Alban then took

Mrs.

Mrs. Baddeley by the hand, and she apologized to him for the trouble she had occasioned, saying, it was an unhappiness to her, to think she had been the means of bringing a person into his company, that had made so much disturbance. He replied, "My dear madam, the happiness of being with you, compensates for every thing; nor do I regard any attempts to interrupt it." "Sir," says Mr. Hanger, glowing with anger, "I am of the same opinion, and we will then see who is to be the happy man immediately." I thought it now necessary to interfere, and taking hold of Mr. St. Alban, told him, that Mr. Hanger was, at times, a mad-man, and that he was now in one of

of

of his mad fits, and begged him not to take any notice of his conduct, for that the fit would soon be over, and all would be well. "I thought, indeed," said Mr. St. Alban, "from the first, that he was out of his mind, and as such, it will be best to get him away, or go away ourselves." Thinking it best to go ourselves, I proposed it to Mrs. Baddeley, to proceed on our journey, on which poor Gaby cried out, "Gracious God! Where are you going?" "On a visit," replied Mrs. Baddeley, "to our friends." The bill was accordingly called for, and paid by Mr. St. Alban, and when Mr. Hanger found our determination was to leave him, he begged and prayed Mrs. Baddeley would let

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him only exchange ten words with her alone, and he should be satisfied. "Not
" one," says she, " but in the presence
" of my friends. It is of no use," continued she, " to follow and pursue me
" as you do; for I am resolved never
" more to see you, except it be in public, where I cannot avoid it."

Though I can feel for the unhappy situation of any one, yet my resentment at Mr. Hanger's conduct, prevented my feeling for him. I told him, that he had better leave us, for if his father heard of this visit, it would incur his displeasure. His reply was, that he cared not for his father on this occasion, nor any thing else, where it interfered

so

so much with his happiness. Our carriage being then at the door, we approached it, and he followed us to it, with seeming anxiety, and begged to know how far we were going. Mrs. Baddeley told him to Oxford; and the coachman was ordered to take us on in that road. Thus did we get rid of him. We went on with Mr. St. Alban, as far as Nettlebed, and in our way, I opened the whole mystery to him. I told him, Mr. Hanger was not mad; but, that I said so, merely to put a stop to his quarrelling. We staid at Nettlebed that night, spent the evening very agreeably, and the next morning parted. Mr. St. Alban went on to Oxford, and we, on our return to London.

Before we set off, the landlord asked us, if we knew any family that wanted a pretty country house. He had one to let well furnished, with a stable and coach-house, a good garden, orchard and dairy, situated on a common, delightfully pleasant, on an eminence, within three miles of Henley; in a good neighbourhood, where firing might be had out of an adjoining wood, for the cutting, and where the fruit, &c. paid the rent, which was only twenty pounds. His account pleased us, and as it was not much out of our way, we went to see it; and as my family was growing up, for I was a married woman, though I did not live with my husband, and the place took my fancy; I engaged it
for

for one year, gave the man three guineas as earnest, and placed a poor woman in it, whom he recommended, 'till such time as I sent my family down. I told Mrs. Baddeley that I would, if possible, prevail on Mr. Steele to go down with my children and live in it; for though Mr. Steele and I lived apart, we were on good terms.

Left we should meet with Mr. Hanger again, at the Red Lion at Henley, we ordered the coachman to pass the house as quick as he could, which he did, and we saw no more of him. At the foot of Henley hill, we met Captain Stanhope, second son of the late Lord Harrington, who was quartered at Henley, and a

Captain Hodges, who politely came up to the carriage, and walked up the hill along side of it, conversing with us all the way. When we came to Maiden-bridge, we stopped some little time, and in the interim came up two post-chaises and four. In the first was the Earl of Peterborough, with a gentleman; in the latter, Mr. Dillon and a lady. Lord Peterborough, hearing we were in the house, came in and paid his respects to us, saying, he was going to Bath; should have been happy to have staid and dined with us, if he was not on a post-haste journey to see a sick friend.

Between

Between Maidenhead and London, having sent our servant on before us to Hammer-smith, we were a little alarmed on the road by a foot-pad, who would have stopped the chaise, but I ordered the drivers to whip the horses; they galloped, and we soon out-run him.

Though we had been absent from town four days, we got home before Lord Melbourne's return. Mrs. Baddeley determined not to tell him of this journey, but to say, she had staid at home all the time, and nursed herself. I believe the air was of service to her, for she had no head-ach whilst she was out. I prepared the accounts against his Lordship called for them: he came

in the evening, but never mentioned them, which I was sorry for, as I was in want of cash to discharge some of Mrs. Baddeley's debts, which five or six of her creditors were very importunate to have done. Mr. Law, the linen-draper, in Coventry-street, Hay-market, was one; who had prevailed on Mrs. Baddeley's good nature, to lay out one hundred and ninety pounds with him. His bill was but of three months standing, and I had paid him eighty pounds in the time; I told him, therefore, as Mrs. Baddeley had not been long upon his books, he must indulge her a few days longer, and then it should be paid. He was very insolent on the occasion; and, as I did not know from his behaviour,

viour,

viour, what he might do; to prevent any trouble to her, as I had not twenty pounds of her money, I gave him a draft on my own cash, for the amount, and told him, he should never have it in his power to behave so again: for I would take care that Mrs. Baddeley should never lay out another shilling with him. I told Mrs. Baddeley of his behaviour, but did not say I had paid him, as I thought a fear of being arrested, might, in future, be a check on such extravagances. She seemed very uneasy, said, she would not be so foolish another time, and hoped my Lord would come that evening, that money might be had to pay him. "I wish," continued she, "I could prevail on
" you, my dear Mrs. Steele, to lend me

" as

“ as much, as I am afraid he will use me
“ ill”. Seeing her unhappy, I produced
his receipt, and she blessed me a thousand times, and hoped she should have
an opportunity to return my kindness.
I replied, the best return she could
make, was to consult me in future,
when she wished to lay out any large
sum of money, and that this would tend
to *her* happiness as well as mine: for as
her debts amounted to upwards of two
thousand pounds, I had my doubts whether Lord Melbourne would discharge
them as she wished. She then begged
I would not acquaint his Lordship of
the whole, lest it should alarm him;
and declared, that if a thousand people
were to come in future to shew her
things,

things, she would see none of them; and seemed very unhappy at her situation. “It is in vain,” said I, “to talk
“of it now, as the mischief is done; all
“you have to do, is to be more prudent in future, and I will contrive,
“some way or other, to get you out of
“the difficulty.” She then began to be a little more at her ease, and particularly when his Lordship came, and she saw him put some money into my hand, saying, “That must do, Mrs. Steele,
“for the present.” Lord Melbourne, having told her he had given me some cash; he was no sooner gone, than she flew to me to know how much I had received; and, on my saying, four hundred pounds, she exclaimed, “Good
“God!

“ God ! No more ! Why did not you
“ press him for a larger sum ?” On
my telling her what his Lordship said,
when he gave it, namely, “ That must
“ do for the present,” she saw, as
well as myself, the impropriety there
would be, in asking him for a further
sum. “ And how we are to manage,”
says I, “ God only knows ; for your
“ note of six hundred pounds, for the
“ necklace, will be brought to-morrow
“ for payment.” “ Take the neck-
lace,” says she, “ and pledge it for as
“ much as you can get, and let the note
“ be paid, or I shall be frightened out
“ of my wits.” Accordingly I took the
neck-lace to Mr. Trip, a pawn-broker,
in St. Martin’s-lane, a man whom I had
known

known from my childhood, and could only get two hundred and ten pounds upon it; "Well," says she, "that, with the four hundred pounds you have, will pay my draft, and we must see and get some more money how we can." The note was brought, and was paid. I advised her, when Lord Melbourne next came, to tell him herself of the debts that she owed; but, she declared she would sooner die than say one word to him on the subject. I knew no other way than advancing her the money myself; but, having done that before, and his Lordship not keeping his promise to repay me, it was not in my power to pay all these debts, as I wished: however, I knew the worst; I

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had enough to quiet them all, if they became troublesome, and I told her I would part with all I had, rather than she should be unhappy.

I don't know the reason, but Lord Melbourne was not so lavish now of his money, as he had been. His own expences might occasion it; but, be that as it would, the truth is, he never mentioned the article of money again, for three-weeks, and when he did, it was only that he would let me have some shortly. I then told his Lordship, I hoped he would. "Why?" says he, "Mrs. Steele, can you want money?" I replied, "I did," and on his asking how much? I made no answer, and his
Lordship

Lordship said, I should have some next week. I was quite out of spirits on the occasion, but Mrs. Baddeley said, "Don't make yourself uneasy, I can find a way to pay these debts, if you will agree to it:" and on enquiring how; she said, "His Grace the Duke of Northumberland had made her great offers, and it was only her consenting to his wishes, and she should be out of all this trouble." I told her, I would never consent to her paying her debts that way; as it was doing more evil, and running head-long into perdition; that if her mind was that way turned, I never would forgive her. She then asked me how she should act; I told her, a little time, with prudence,

would put an end to this difficulty ; that I would part with the last shilling to help her ; and as her creditors were not very troublesome, I hoped to bring things round. Though my heart felt much at this time, I carried it off as well as I could, that I might not add to her uneasiness. It had a good effect, and kept her for a little time within bounds ; yet occasionally she would want this thing, and the other, which in fact she had no occasion for, and which I put a stop to, by reminding her of her present embarrassment.

The Duke of Northumberland, as if he had private intelligence of our necessity, sent again to renew his former offers.

fers. The same gentleman, who applied to Mrs. Baddeley in Hyde-park, now came to Grafton-street, and begged to see her, in order to deliver a note he had brought from Northumberland-house into her own hands. This surprized her, and she said, "What shall I do? I had better see him."—"By no means," says I. For, knowing her sentiments, I dreaded the consequence; so I went down and told him Mrs. Baddeley was much indisposed, and could not do herself the pleasure of waiting on him; but if he would intrust me with the note, I would certainly deliver it, and an answer should be sent. His reply was, the contents of the note could not be answered without his hav-

ing an interview, as his Grace did not choofe to write all he had, in command, to inform her of; and that if I would name the time when he could fee Mrs. Baddeley, he would wait on her at that time. Now, fo anxious was ſhe in this buſineſs, that ſhe came to liſten to what the gentleman ſaid; and on hearing him ſay, he would come at ſome other time, ſhe ſent her ſervant to beg to ſpeak to me, and I deſired the gentleman would wait till my return, which he readily agreed to. On my entering her room, ſhe ſaid, “ Mrs. Steele, “ don’t let him go; ſure you muſt be “ mad! At a time when we are ſo much “ involved. This is a fine opportunity “ to extricate myſelf out of every dif-
“ ficulty.

" difficulty. For his Grace is a liberal
 " and a generous man." " Yes," re-
 plied I, " and what reward does he
 " require?—Such a one, that if you
 " agree to, I will not put up with. I
 " have already suffered much by your
 " imprudence in this way, and I am
 " convinced his Grace will never bestow
 " his bounty, where he cannot be grati-
 " fied in return." This she declared
 he never should. All she wished, was
 to see the note and the gentleman; ac-
 cordingly, in opposition to me, he was
 desired to walk up to the drawing-
 room; and, as I was much displeased, I
 left them to themselves. She saw him,
 and when he was gone, began to ac-
 quaint me with the result of his visit,
 which

which, at first, I would neither hear nor listen to; but on further intreaties I complied. She first gave me the note, and begged me to read it; its contents were as follow:

“ The Duke of Northumberland
 “ presents his compliments to Mrs.
 “ Baddeley, and has sent a gentleman
 “ to communicate something of conse-
 “ quence to her.

“ *Wednesday morning,*

“ *eleven o'clock.*”

She then told me that his Grace had offered her his protection for life, with the payment of all her debts, if she owed any; with any sum of money she might

might name; provided she would live with him, and see no other person whatever: that she might either live in his house, or any other she liked, on condition she admitted no other visitor than him; that he would allow her fifteen hundred pounds a year, and if she was faithful to him, would think of a settlement. She said, that after hearing this gentleman out, she gave him to understand, that her situation was such, as put it out of her power to comply with his Grace's wishes; that she had at present a noble benefactor, to whom she was bound in gratitude to live with, and that if his Grace's offers were ten times as great, as he had now mentioned, she could not accept them. The gentleman

gentleman spoke much in praise of his noble friend, and said his bounty would not be bounded by what he had said, but she would find him liberal in the extreme; “on which I replied,” continued she, “that his Grace did not “propose a settlement, until he saw the “propriety of my conduct, which is “far from a liberal offer.” This he returned, would be no obstacle to his Grace, if my answer was satisfactory; for that his Grace’s esteem and regard for me was such, as would make him happy to gratify me. However, says she, I gave him no hopes, considering with myself how much more noble Lord Melbourne’s bounty had been to me, than his Grace’s proposals amounted to.

to. "And though," adds she, "my im-
" prudence urged me to see this gentle-
" man, to learn how far I could extricate
" myself from my present embarrassment,
" I assure you I gave him a denial." I told
her I thought she acted right; and she
thought so too, as she would not offend
me, she said, for the world. "Offending
me," replied I, "is nonsense. Lord
" Melbourne's generosity should not be
" abused, and though his unfortunate
" attachment to you, (for he being a
" married man, I call it unfortunate) has
" been winked at by me, as it took place
" when I could not avoid it; so has it
" continued under the same necessity; but
" there is no reason why you should add
" sin to sin, and fill up the measure of
" your

“ your iniquities.” “ Good God,” said I,
to myself; “ the Duchefs of Northum-
“ berland is ftill living.—How wicked is
“ this fashionable world!—To me all this
“ is dreadful.—But like all other bad
“ things, they become familiar at laft;
“ and we think nothing of them.—Lord
“ Melbourne never comes to this houfe
“ but I feel myfelf hurt, on account of
“ his Lady; and the impropriety of *his*
“ vifits, are quite fufficient without the
“ addition of any more. Befides,” conti-
nues I, “ you fee how much more liberal
“ Lord Melbourne has been, than any
“ propofals made by the Duke of Nor-
“ thumberland. Was you to accept his
“ Grace’s offer, you muft have purfued
“ a very

“ a very different conduct or his year-
 “ ly allowance would not last you three
 “ months.”

The Duke, however, did not end his application here; for in the evening this gentleman returned, and Lord Melbourne being then with her, I told him, as he had received his answer in the morning, that any thing he had further to say upon the subject, could not be of any consequence. He assured me it was, and as such he must acquaint her with it, or he might gain his Grace's displeasure; and that as Mrs. Baddeley had said, she would see him whenever he called, he pressed me to let her know it. I told him she was then engaged

with her friend, and to see her was impossible. "That friend's name," replied the gentleman, "she has made me acquainted with;" of course, he supposed Lord Melbourne was with her: to this I said, "it is of little consequence, who is with her;" (for I was hurt, she should have mentioned his name), "you cannot see her." I was convinced, however, that she had deceived me, in respect to what passed between this gentleman and her in the morning. I would have changed the subject, but he kept up to his text, said, it would be Mrs. Baddeley's interest to see him, and as she was engaged now, he would call on her the next day, and was sure he should be admitted to her, if she was acquainted

acquainted with his being there. I told him she should be informed of it, and he took his leave. Lord Melbourne soon went, and then Mrs. Baddeley said, "Has any one been here?—My dear Mrs. Steele, has the Duke sent again?" "Did you expect him," returned I, "to send again after your denial?" "No," says she, "but persons of his rank and fortune, never drop a pursuit so easily." I told her, I hoped she had not given him the name of her friend. Her reply was, that he himself had mentioned it, and she did not contradict it. "I am sorry," replied I, "for this; you should have denied it." That would have been of little use, she said, for through Mr.

Hanger, and one person or the other, it was very well known. I then told her, this gentleman from the Duke, had been with me again, and I was at a loss to know what he could want now. With this she was highly pleased, and said, “ You did not, I hope, say, that I would
“ not see him ? Will he be here again ? ”
“ O fie Sophy,” says I, “ if you had told
“ him in the morning, as you declared
“ to me you had; you would not want to
“ see him again.” She replied, she only wished to hear what new offers he had to make; and on my saying, he would be with her again to-morrow; she said, she must and would see him; that it should be for the last time, for when she had heard all he had to offer, she would forbid his
coming

coming any more. The Gentleman came again the next morning, and was shewn up into the drawing-room; he was with Mrs. Baddeley near two hours, and on his leaving her, I heard her say in a low voice, “God bless you; let me see you to-morrow.” She ran to me full of his Grace’s offers, and his new proposals, which were as follow.—That his Grace wished her not to be ungrateful to her present benefactor, who, he found, had acted so nobly by her.—“Stop,” said I, “how came he to know how nobly he had acted?” She replied, “I have told him, not mentioning his name.”—I let her go on.—That his Grace proposed calling to see her twice a week, and that at times when he

found Lord Melbourne was not with her ; that on his first visit to tea, he would give her five hundred pounds, and would then tell her himself his whole mind on the subject ; that his Grace would discharge all her debts and be her friend for life : that the gentleman mentioned a Miss Ash, whom his Grace had been kind to for many years ; that his liberality and bounty to her, was not to be described ; that he was a man not like the fashionable world in general, but steady in his attachments, unless he had cause to the contrary ; and that he would do any thing for her, she might desire of him.—I listened to this with all the patience I was mistress of, and she ran on with his promises so much

much, that it would tire my reader to relate it. In short, she told me, she gave the gentleman this answer; that she would consider of his proposals, and give him her determination the next day. "And why," says I, "did you not give him a positive denial then?" "Because," returned she, "I wished to consult you first." I told her she knew my sentiments on the subject, and she might assure herself, they would not alter, if the Duke had offered her his whole fortune. "Well," says she, "suppose we admit him to drink tea?" "That would only lead on to further evils," replied I, "and I am determined he shall not come."—"Good God," says she, "I can have five hundred
" pounds

“ pounds for nothing.”—“ Certainly,”
replied I, laughing at her, “ for no-
“ thing!—Mankind are too fond of
“ their money to bestow it, but in re-
“ turn for favours received.” “ Surely
“ my dear Steele,” says she, “ you are
“ not serious; I have partly promised
“ to receive him at tea to-morrow.”—

At this I lost my temper, and said,
“ you may act as you please, but you
“ must invite him to some other house;
“ for he certainly shall not come here:
“ if he does, as soon as he enters the
“ house I will affront him, and I would
“ do the same, if he was King of Eng-
“ land.” She was much displeased at
this, said, “ I might suffer her to get
“ out of her embarrassments, before I

“ put

“ put her under such restraint.” I replied, “ her embarrassments were owing
“ to her own folly, and now she wished
“ to commit greater, in hopes of getting out of them ; that if she had patience, Lord Melbourne would pay
“ the whole, and she had nothing to do
“ but to act differently in future.” She then said, “ if I would not suffer his
“ Grace to come there, she would meet
“ him at some other place.” “ If this be
“ your determination,” replied I, “ you
“ shall abide by the consequence, for I
“ will never countenance such conduct.” In short, I could do nothing with her ; she was fully bent on seeing the Duke, but took great pains to convince me of the innocence of her intentions, and
urge

urge me to a compliance ; but I was resolute, and would not consent.

The next morning this gentleman came again, and she watched his coming, thinking I might send him away without her seeing him ; she saw him, and what passed between them, I did not know at the time, for she ordered the coach, and they went off together. She was gone four hours and more, and on her return, after begging my pardon, she requested me to listen to what she had to say ; for as she had been doing no ill, I might attend to her with propriety, and she would tell me with truth, every thing that passed.—On my saying I would hear nothing from her, she
vowed

vowed she would take another bottle of laudanum, which she had in her pocket. Knowing she had done so in the affair of Mr. Hanger, I was alarmed, and thinking, whilst she was out, she might have provided some, I judged it best to hear her. She then told me, as I was so resolute as not to admit of the Duke's coming to the house, she acquainted the gentleman with it, and he prevailed on her to go with him, as far as Northumberland-street, that he might acquaint his Grace with the cause that she could not see him at home, saying he would not detain her there ten minutes. She went to Northumberland-street, where the coach stopped and waited his return, when he begged the
favour

favour of her to go with him into Privy-garden, juſt by Lord Pembroke's, where he would acquaint her with what his Grace had ſaid. She ſuppoſed this was to prevent any of the Duke's ſervants ſeeing her. When he returned, he got into the coach, but did not ſay more, than that his Grace was very much hurt, at my refuſing him to come to my houſe. On reaching Privy-garden he directed the coachman where to ſtop, ſaying, that place was the leaſt noticed. In a few minutes came the Duke, wrapped up in a great coat, with a handkerchief up to his face, and, getting into the coach, ordered the gentleman to go home, and wait for him. He, in a very polite manner, begged her pardon, ſhe ſaid, for the
intruſion,

intrusion, but finding the lady, at whose house she was at, averse to his seeing her there, he was willing to embrace that opportunity, to declare his sentiments, and said, "Will you permit your coachman to drive on, for a ride, to Chelsea, through the King's road;" and begged the silk curtains might be let down. That she ordered her coachman to drive the road the Duke wished, and that in the way, he said a thousand civil things to her; and that she thought him a very *good* man; this was her expression. That telling his Grace, she had a house at Hammer-smith, he wished to see it; that accordingly they went and continued there about an hour and a half; that he pressed for favours, but had not

a wish for more than was really consistent for her to grant. That he offered her every thing her heart could wish, and said, how sorry he was, I was so much averse to his happiness; that he wished to know how he had offended me; that she told his Grace, I had no other motive for my refusal, than the impropriety of her conduct; that I wished her to avoid all men in general, but that since I had imprudently entered into a connexion with one man, it would be a breach of faith, and the highest ingratitude, to listen to the proposals of any other; that his Grace said, if these were my motives, he honoured me for them, and could not be angry with me; that was he the happy Lord that enjoyed her
favour;

favours, how much should he value me: on this, he took out a glove, and begged her to ask me to try it on; and if I liked it, to keep it and remember, that it was a present from him. She gave me this glove, it was a new one, and I threw it down, saying, I would not accept it. She said do, pray take it, there is something in it, but which she had not looked at. Finding I would not take it up, she stooped for it, and pulled out from it three bank-notes of one hundred pounds each.—“They are,” says I, “the price of your infamy, and you may keep them yourself; I will have nothing to do with them; you are the proper person to enjoy them, if they will afford you any enjoy-

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“ment.”

“ment.” She said, if I did not take them, she would throw them into the fire; and, on my refusing them, actually did, and it was at the risk of my hands, that I rescued them from the flames. I then put them into a drawer, and locked it, saying, it was not times to destroy such a sum; she declared her innocence with the Duke; confessed she had given him hopes of favours, and said, she might have had from him, any sum she thought proper to accept; that she refused all his offers, but had promised to meet him again on Thursday at Hammer-smith-house, and was determined she would.

When

When she had done, I sent off a servant for one of her milliners, to whom she owed near six hundred pounds, Price, of Tavistock-street, and paid him the three hundred pounds, which she said his Grace sent me as a present in the glove, and gave her his receipt, telling her I was happy so far in convincing her, that the money was properly applied to her own use, as it was she that deserved it, and not me. At this, she exclaimed, " Oh ! Mrs. Steele, " what a good heart you have ! Shall I " ever live to make you amends ?" I replied, there were none due or expected ; that I had not a shadow of claim to the money, nor would I on the score it was given, take a present from any man ;

that I despised such meannesses, and that if I received a hundred thousand pounds in a similar way, I would either return it, or apply it to her use. She solemnly assured me his Grace gave it with no improper view, and did it, in so delicate a way, that any woman might have accepted it; that he begged pardon for sending so trifling a thing as a glove; but, that as it was one he had worn, and as she would not permit him to present her his hand, he hoped she would accept his glove as it's representative.

About this time Mr. Foote brought out a new piece, at the little Theatre in the Hay-market, called, the *Maid of Bath*, alluding to Miss Linley, now Mrs.

Mrs. Sheridan: and, prior to it's first appearance, he called on us, and requested we would accept of a box for the night, which should be at our service, for us and our friends; and hoped we would make a point of being there, in order to grace (as he was pleased to say) his Theatre. The box reserved for us was next to the stage-box, that commanded a sight of the whole house, and we went. Mr. Foote performed in this play himself, it went off with eclat, and was well received by a crowded house. About the middle of the piece, where Mr. Foote enlarged much on the beauty of the Maid of Bath, he added, "Not even the beauty of the nine Muses, nor even that of the divine

Bad-

“ Baddeley herself, who there sits, (pointing to the box where we sat,) “ could exceed that of the Maid of “ Bath.” This drew a thunder of applause from all parts of the house; he was encored, and Mr. Foote repeated the words three times. Every eye was on Mrs. Baddeley, and I do not recollect ever seeing her so confused before. She rose from her seat, and curtesied to the audience, and it was near a quarter of an hour before she could discontinue her obedience, the plaudits lasting so long. This trick of Mr. Foote’s, put her so much to the blush, that the colour did not leave her face the whole evening. Mrs. Baddeley’s face, was not, according to the fashion of modern beauties, made

made up by art, for she never used any rouge but on the stage; which all the performers, men and women, are obliged to do, owing to the livid paleness which the lights in front cast upon the face.

Having occasion to go out to see a daughter of mine, who was then at school, sick, Mrs. Baddeley complained of a head-ach, and said, she would lie down; desiring me to call at her milliner's and other places, for necessaries which she wanted. I was also obliged to stay longer than I intended, as finding my child ill, I fetched Doctor Eliot to attend her. On my return home, I went up stairs, gently, expecting to find Mrs. Baddeley asleep; but, hearing a noise above, I listened, and

and heard her laugh immoderately, which she always did at any mischief that was going forward. On entering the room, I told her I was happy to find her head-ach gone, and wished to know what made her so chearful, that I might partake of it. At this she laughed the more, and said, "My dear Steele, as you staid so long, I was coming after you in a chair, and have ordered my servant to fetch one; do send down and prevent it." Mrs. Baddeley then went to the glass, and bad her maid stand by her; then viewing herself, she said to her maid, "I cannot think why the world should so much admire my sister; to be sure she's handsome; but my face is as handsome as her's,

" and

“and more so; is it not Fanny?” The
 maid replied, “Yes, Miss, indeed you
 “are much handsomer than her Lady-
 “ship;” and then Mrs. Baddeley
 laughed again. “Well,” said I, “pro-
 “ceed, I hear you with pleasure.” She
 went up to the glass again, strutting
 and viewing herself as before, and say-
 ing, “Well, the world can but admire
 “me; and if I am not so tall as my
 “sister, they can only say, there goes a
 “*Lump of Beauty.*” On my enquir-
 ing into all this nonsense, she said, a
 gentleman had been with her in my ab-
 sence, and had told her this little story of
 Lady Archer’s sister. The lady that is
 always seen with Lady Archer is her sister.
 They are the daughters of Mr. West, who
 lived

lived in the great house in King-street, Covent-garden, now known by the name of Lowe's Hotel. "The gentleman, who has been here," said she, "has been entertaining me with the manner in which he entered into high life; saying, this Miss West, who called herself the *Lump of Beauty*, in the manner I have represented it before the glass, fell in love with him; that till this accident happened, he had no expectations, but to wear a pen behind his ear all his life." "Who is this gentleman," said I, interrupting her?—"Hear his history first," says she, "and then I'll tell you.—That he was the second son of a West-India merchant, living in, or near, Golden-square; that he was placed at a counting-

ing-

“ ing-house in the city, and had been
 “ there some time; that accident made
 “ him acquainted with this Lump of
 “ Beauty, who introduced him to her
 “ sister, Lady Archer, and her husband.
 “ This introduction into high life un-
 “ settled his mind to the counting-house,
 “ according to his own declaration, and
 “ made him pine for better company
 “ than his situation in life entitled him
 “ to; that he then began to study
 “ dress and fashionable manners, and,
 “ being a personable man and well edu-
 “ cated, through Lord Archer’s family,
 “ he got introduced to other persons of
 “ rank, supporting his expences by
 “ play, at which he was very fortunate.”
 “ Why don’t you tell me his name?”

said I, with impatience. “Softly,” returned she, “and you shall know it.—
“This gentleman, who has just been
“here in your absence, waited on this
“Lump of Beauty for some time, and,
“through her, became a member of
“the ladies club, and was admitted at
“Almack’s, at Boodle’s, at Goostrey’s,
“and all the gaming-houses in town;
“where he had such a run of luck, as
“to enable him to keep a vis-a-vis,
“and live as a man of fortune.”—
“Well, then,” returned I, “at best,
“you can only call him a gambler, and
“he may in one night be as wretched,
“as he is now happy.” “Oh,” replies she, “he has wit at will to direct him,
“and has been prudent, and taken care
“of

“ of his money. This gentleman,” says she, “ as he was passing the end of Grafton-street, seeing you go out without me, came in and told my maid, for John was out, that he must see me, on very particular business. The girl said, I was ill, but asked him in, and said she would go and acquaint me. He followed her up stily, and came into my room.” “ And who was this insolent man?” says I, with a degree of warmth. “ Only,” says she, curtesying and laughing, “ Mr. Thomas Storer.” Vexed beyond measure, and to be laughed at, I replied, “ Had I known his name sooner, I should not have attended to his history.” “ Was you up?” “ No,”

says she, “ and I had enough to do to
“ keep him from me. But Fanny went
“ down stairs, and called Betty the
“ laundry-maid, who would put on her
“ cap before she would appear, she
“ said, before any gentleman ; and then,
“ when her cap was on, and Susan the
“ kitchen-maid had been up into the
“ garret, to put on a clean apron, they
“ all met, and settling the matter be-
“ tween themselves, came at last into
“ my room, and with great difficulty
“ got him away into another room.”—
“ Why,” says I, “ they were a long
“ time about it. Why did you not
“ ring the bell ?” “ Oh,” says she,
laughing, “ the wicked man had me too
“ fast in his arms for that ; however,
“ he

“ he left me at last, and I got up. He
 “ then apologized for coming on me
 “ so abruptly, and did it in such a
 “ winning way, that I could not for
 “ my soul be angry, but gave him a
 “ kiss and forgave him.” I lost all pa-
 tience with her on this recital, and told
 her, that her exposing herself to her ser-
 vants was worse than all. She told me,
 she could no way help it. I was very
 angry with her, but it answered no
 purpose. Thus, was she laughing at
 me the whole time; for Fanny had been
 privy to this meeting, and the noise I
 heard on going up-stairs, was no other
 than his flying out of her chamber; and,
 during the time she was relating his his-
 tory, he slipped off. She was at this

time in so tittering a mood, and so full of her fun, calling herself the Lump of Beauty, that I found it was no time to talk to her; but, determined to discharge Fanny, and tell her my mind, at a more seasonable opportunity. She then said, she had seen another gentleman, and she was afraid Mr. Storer had heard what he said. This was the Duke of Northumberland's friend, that came with a most polite message from his Grace, requesting the favour of a meeting at Hammersmith that evening, at six. She asked me to accompany her, and on my saying I would not, replied, she would then go by herself. I told her, I was unhappy at seeing it; she replied, that her intentions were innocent,

cent, and that she should go for the last time, merely to acquaint his Grace, she could admit of his visits no longer ; “ For,” continues she, “ a man of his “ rank and situation in life should be “ treated with respect ;” that he was a gentleman of too good a character to put an improper construction on her meeting him ; that no harm could arise from a reserved interview ; that he could not *eat* her (these were her words) and that as he had always behaved with the greatest politeness and attention to her, she would not be wanting in civility on her part. I told her, she was mistress of her own actions ; that I wished not to exercise any authority over her ; that what I said was out of pure friendship and

and regard, and that as I found my friendly advice was not taken, I should in future not attempt to give it; that she seemed totally to forget her benefactor Lord Melbourne, and the injury she had already done his Lady; and was now seeking for an opportunity of disturbing the peace of another family.

In the afternoon she ordered the coach and went to HammerSmith alone. In her absence came Lord Melbourne, I told him Mrs. Baddeley was out. "Out!" exclaimed he, "And without you!—How is this?" I told his Lordship I was not very well, and could not go with her;—"Where is she gone?" says he.—To HammerSmith

I told

I told him for a ride, and to give some directions about the house.—He replied, he had left his lady at the play-house, and must return to her immediately; and therefore after a little conversation left me.

Mrs. Baddeley did not come home till twelve o'clock, and when she came, was in high glee and spirits; begged my pardon for being so long absent, but said she could not avoid it, and that I should not be displeased when I heard all. "I have never" continued she, "experienced so much, as since I left you."—I told her I was not in spirits to attend to her, and wished to go to bed. She was the same way disposed, and we went up together.

gether. "Now," says she, "my ever
" dear, dear Mrs. Steele, let me tell you
" all that has past,"—and on my saying
to-morrow would be time enough, she
replied, "if you do not hear me now,
" I shall not be able to sleep." My
silence giving consent, she began with
saying, the Duke was at Hammer-smith
before her, that he handed her from her
carriage.—that they drank tea,—and
that, during tea,—he launched forth a
great deal in her praise; and expressed
his love and esteem for her, in the warm-
est terms, and that he ran on two hours,
using all the arguments he was master
of, to gain her compliance with his
wishes, but that she was not to be won;
that he offered her any part of his for-
tune;

tune; that when he found words would
 not avail, he took her in his arms;
 vowed he loved no woman on earth but
 her; that if she persisted in her non-
 compliance, he must—and there he
 stopped.—Must?—What? said she,—“I
 must,” returned he,—“be unhappy;”—
 that he held her fast in his arms an
 hour, and that she begged him repeat-
 edly to let her go—and he would not.
 “How then,” said she, “my dear
 friend, did I wish to be with you!
 “I never till that moment, was sensible
 “of my imprudence, and how little
 “dependence there is in any man; for
 “I was then aware of his determina-
 “tion, and his offers I disregarded,
 “as dross.” “In short,” said she,
 “much

“ much against my will, he led me to
“ my chamber; I found my resolution
“ give way, and I did, what I now re-
“ pent of.” She cried much, as she
gave me this relation, and said, he
would have given her bank-notes, to a
great amount, but that she was so an-
gry with herself, for what she had done,
and his improper treatment of her, that
she would not take them;—that he said,
he would inclose them in a letter, and
send them to her next day.—“ I am
“ now glad,” replied I, “ that you see
“ for once the impropriety of your con-
“ duct. Had you taken my advice, you
“ would not have put yourself in his
“ power, and, consequently, would not
“ have met with the ill usage you men-
“ tion,

“ tion, and which you richly deserve.—
 “ You see how far mankind is to be rely-
 “ ed on; be they of what rank they will!
 “ But, with all the ill treatment, you say
 “ you now met with, and the tears it has
 “ cost you, I find you returned home full
 “ of spirits, as if nothing had happened.”

These were affected spirits, she said, lest I would not give her a patient hearing, and that the servants might not make remarks.—She then begged I would forgive her, saying, she would never act in opposition to my advice in future; and I promised so to do, on condition she would discharge her maid, for being instrumental to Mr. Storer's seeing her in the morning, for that I was persuaded

she had taken money of him, to admit him. She believed it herself, and thought she went to Mr. Storer's lodgings, and gave him intelligence of my being out; for Mr. Storer lived in the neighbourhood, and she was seen to go out. She was of course discharged. It came out afterwards from Mr. Storer himself, that she actually did as we apprehended.

The next morning Sir Thomas Mills called (this gentleman is the natural son of Lord Mansfield); invited himself to tea, and said, with our leave he would bring an old friend with him, Admiral Spry. The gentleman also from the Duke of Northumberland called,

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ed, and begged to see Mrs. Baddeley, saying, he had a letter only to deliver into her hands, which required no answer, and that he would not detain her a minute. She with a seeming reluctance saw him, and on his delivering the letter, he bowed and left her. Returning she gave me the letter, which I opened; it contained three bank-notes, to the amount of five hundred pounds, and was as follows:

“ My dear Mrs. Baddeley,

“ Inclosed is a trifle which I
 “ beg your acceptance of. By your
 “ accepting of this, I shall be able to
 “ direct some more of the same sort to

“ your hand, and to explain myself
“ more fully.

“ Respectfully Your’s.

“ *Friday morning.*”

This note was written by the Duke himself, but without a name. Mrs. Baddeley observed upon this, that this sum was first sent by way of introduction, to see how it would be received.

“ And if the sum of five hundred pounds
“ was not at this time, of great use to
“ me,” says she, “ I would send it back ;
“ but as it is, Mrs. Steele, put it into
“ your pocket : I suppose I shall hear
“ from him again in a day or two.”

In

In the afternoon came Sir Thomas Mills, with Admiral Spry, who invited us to the Naval review, at Portsmouth. We were just going to cards, when Lord Melbourne knocked at the door, which obliged Mrs. Baddeley to leave them, saying, she hoped they would excuse the necessity, and should be happy to see them at any other time. Mrs. Baddeley having retired, they soon took their leave, the Admiral saying, he should expect us at Portsmouth.

I began now to think of disposing of the Duke's money, and proposed the next day to divide it among those who most wanted it. Mrs. Baddeley said, his Lordship promised, in a few days, to

settle accounts with me. She said, he made many enquiries about what she was doing at Hammer Smith; but that she excused herself very well, saying, she had taken my daughter with her, then about ten years of age. "How's that?" returns his Lordship, "Mrs. Steele said, you was alone?" "Oh," replied she, she does not consider the child as any one." He then enquired after the child, and said, when his son was a man, he should marry her, and she would then be a *lamb*. His Lordship's name being Lamb.

As I made it a rule, when we had any money to spare, to send for the tradesmen, in whose debt we were, and pay them

them part of their bills, if not the whole ; it was a means of keeping them quiet. The Duke's five hundred pounds was wholly disposed of this way. Mr. Storer called, but no admittance. We then proposed an airing, and, getting into the coach, Mr. George Hobart came up, and offered to accompany us. We went towards Turnham-green, where he requested we would do him the honour to dine with him. A dinner was ordered at the Pack-horse, and we had every thing the house afforded. Mr. Hobart's polite attention on all occasions, commanded our respect; for though Mrs. Baddeley would not receive his addresses, he always noticed her as a gentlewoman, and was at all times

times ready to oblige her. On our return home, we found the gentleman from the Duke of Northumberland had called, and proposed calling the next day. "This," said, Mrs. Baddeley, "is with more money to me." Two letters were also brought; one from Mr. Johnson, and one from Lord Melbourne.

Admiral Spry called to acquaint us that the time for the review was fixed; that it would continue three days, and advised us to write down, and order beds; as when the people at Portsmouth came to know it, we should not be able to procure them under ten guineas a night. The Admiral told us, that, if we pleased, we might be all day on board
his

his ship; except the day his Majesty proposed him the honour of dining with him. The Admiral was a plain man, but one of a princely character, and an ornament to the navy; we accepted his invitation, and, when we came to Portsmouth, we were to let him know, and he would fetch us in his barge.

At ten o'clock, according to appointment, the gentleman called again from the Duke of Northumberland, and requested to see Mrs. Baddeley, as he had a letter to deliver into her own hands, and wished to see me likewise. Mrs. Baddeley urged me to see him, saying, she had told the Duke how I had disposed of the three hundred pounds

pounds he sent me, and shewed him the receipt for the same; which she took in her pocket purposely, that he might not think me under an obligation I would not acknowledge: at this, his Grace said, my heart was as noble as my mind, and that I was an ornament to my sex. Therefore if I refused any thing now sent, it would be folly; he having no occasion to bribe me, for that the Duke being now fully acquainted with her sentiments, nothing further dishonourable would ever pass between them. I went down to the gentleman, not forgetting her words in my way; and said, "Sir, my servant informed
" me, you have a wish to see *me*."
" Pardon me," replied he, " it is by
" his

“ his Grace of Northumberland’s order,
“ that I am, with his compliments to
“ present you with this.” I asked, If
it required an answer? He said
no; on which I put it in my pocket,
and left him, saying, Mrs. Baddeley
would wait on him presently. She begged
to know what passed, and I gave
her the letter; she opened it, and it
contained four bank-notes of one hundred
pounds each, with a slip of paper,
on which was written. *A reward for a
noble disposition.* Mrs. Baddeley returned
it to me, and then went down to the
gentleman, with whom she had much
conversation, continuing with him more
than an hour; he gave her a packet
sealed up, which she did not open till
after

after he was gone ; she then flew up to me, and gave it me to open, saying, there was no letter, for what the Duke had to say, he did not choose to commit to writing. The packet contained, as before, five hundred pounds in bank-notes ; which made her very happy : she then told me what the gentleman had said to her, namely, that his Grace, being fearful she should refuse the letter, he was directed, if she did, to give it to her, to present me with it ; that the Duke sent his kind love to her, that he was and ever should remain in the mind he had before expressed himself ; that as she had so often told him, she could not receive his visits, in her present situation ; he only requested, that if time
should

should alter it, and she would acquaint him with the same, she would meet with all his promises, whenever she chose to command them; that he would, on all occasions, shew himself her friend, and the only favour she could bestow on him, in the present state of things, was to put it in his power to convince her of it, otherwise than by words, and to accept the small token he had sent, in testimony of it.

“ This money,” said Mrs. Baddeley, “ will make us happy at Portsmouth.” “ Yes,” returned I, “ It will make our *minds* happy, for I beg it may be paid where it is due.” She put a negative upon this, saying, “ The

VOL. III. K “ people

“ people must wait till money comes
“ from Lord Melbourne, for his Lord-
“ ship has not been very bountiful of
“ late ; therefore, till *more* comes, I
“ will not part with *this*.” I told her,
she might command the money he sent
to me, but she declared, on her honour
and soul, I should not part with a shil-
ling of it on her account ; that it was
my own, and three hundred pounds to
it, (alluding to the first three his Grace
sent me) if I had what was my right.
All she wished, was, that I would give
her a keep-sake, which she would pre-
serve in memory of me, as long as she
lived. I promised her I would, and as
she had no bracelets, I bought her a
pair of enamelled lockets, set round with
brilliants,

brilliant, with small pearls to go round the wrist, which cost me one hundred and thirty pounds, and which she did me the favour to accept. She constantly wore them, and did me the credit to say, upon all occasions, they were a present from me.

In point of money-matters now, we were tolerably easy ; but, my fears were, that whilst this sum was in the house, some new thing would occur, that would not be pleasing. One of the players came the next day, and gave us an account of an actor of some merit, being in distress, locked up in a spunging-house, for a debt of twenty-five pounds; that Mr. Garrick had been applied to,

and would not advance him a penny; that he had a good wife, and a family of children; that, as he had not money to defray the expences of the house where he was, he must go to jail that night, if he could not find a friend to assist him; and, that at his desire, he took the liberty to call on Mrs. Baddeley. She looked wishfully at me, anxious I knew to relieve him, if it met with my approbation: I told her, as this person had a family, if she would pay half the debt, I would pay the other. “No,” returns she, “permit me, I will pay the whole. Let us order the coach, and go and relieve him.” We accordingly went, discharged the debt and costs, and took him home to his wife,

wife, who did not expect to see him: and, to express the gratitude of the people, and the satisfaction we felt, would require an abler pen than mine. He was desirous of giving us his note for the money, but we refused it, saying, we begged his acceptance of it; and Mrs. Baddeley giving one of the children two guineas, we left them to the enjoyment of each other. We had scarce reached home, before Lord Palmerston called, and asking where we had been, we told him, to relieve a distressed family, and mentioned some of the particulars. His Lordship seemed desirous of knowing how far he could be of use to the man, and who he was, as he should be happy to send him a few

guineas. I begged to be excused mentioning his name, as he was a player, and it might tend only to expose him, without any good end; but, that if his Lordship thought proper to send him any thing, I would convey his favour; and the family should acknowledge it. He gave me five guineas, but begged I would not say from whom it came.

Sir Thomas Mills now called, to acquaint us, from Admiral Spry, that we must set off the day after to-morrow for Portsmouth; he advised us to take our own horses, and to lie at Guilford the first night; and, on our arrival at Portsmouth, to send immediately to the Admiral.

As

As Lord Melbourne was out of town, and would continue so for some time, we began to prepare for the journey, and in order to make the best appearance we could, we equipped ourselves accordingly, both for our persons and our equipage. Doctor Arne came the next morning to breakfast, to whom we never were denied, and enquiring of him, what brought him out so early, he said, to look for money, and asked, if we could favour him with the loan of twenty pounds. The money was lent him, by Mrs. Baddeley, and he gave his note for the same, payable, either to her or to me. Mrs. Baddeley, as soon as she received it, threw it into the fire, saying, "Now, " Doctor, your note is paid. Your
" accep-

“ acceptance of twenty pounds, is a
 “ sufficient recompence to me ; for, in
 “ my first outset in life, when I was not
 “ able to pay you, how kindly did you
 “ and your son give me many a les-
 “ son. This is a circumstance I shall
 “ never forget, and I hope to be able
 “ to shew my further gratitude in a lit-
 “ tle time.” Dr. Arne was not a little
 pleased, flattered, and thankful. When
 he was gone, she asked me, whether I
 thought she acted right ; I told her, I
 should have done the same, had I been
 under similar obligations. But she must
 not think of parting with any more
 money at present.

I had

I had many things to adjust abroad; but, being afraid to leave her, I proposed sending for the hair-dresser, who I knew would engage her three hours, and put a book into her hands. She approved of this, for she was fond of reading, and few women read better; and the man was sent for.

Before the man had finished her hair, I returned. She asked me, if I had bought her the tickets she wished in the Irish lottery. I told her, I had bought three; "Then, pray, Mrs. Steele," said she, "give them to the hair-dresser to try his fortune." I did as she desired; he was thankful, and said, as they were

were a present of her's, he was sure they would be lucky.

We had a visit now from Doctor Hayes, of Marlborough-street, the physician, with whom Mrs. Baddeley once lived. She was happy to see him, and he stayed tea. He talked of old times, and from thence he passed to present ones; said, he had purchased some shares in the Pantheon, which brought on the story related before of her having been refused admittance. He was happy, he said, to find the nobility took so active a part in her favour, and declared the managers were terribly frightened for the consequences. He then told her, she

was

was still as dear to him as ever ; but, as I did not quit the room, he had no opportunity of saying more, and after tea he left us. At nine o'clock, Mr. Dibden, the player, came to ask a favour of her, which she readily complied with. He staid supper, told us a strange story of Mr. Bickerstaff, the author, and of Mrs. Wrighten's being engaged at the Theatre, and said, she had powers, and a good voice ; but, he was of opinion, would never do for the stage. Here he prophesied ill, for Mrs. Wrighten is, at this day, an able performer, and a credit to the Theatre.

We next morning set off for Portsmouth, having sent our maid in the stage
the

the day before; we stopped and lay at Guilford the first night, and reached Portsmouth the next evening, where we found all things prepared for our reception. Sir Thomas Mills called on us as soon as we arrived; he told us, the Admiral was on board the *Barfleur*, and that we must send our servant to him, to let him know we were arrived. We did so, and the Admiral returned his compliments, and said, he would wait on us as soon as possible, which he did, and drank tea with us. These gentlemen, the next morning, walked round the town with us, for the review was not to be till the next day: we were well dressed, and met here many of our friends, and were accosted by all. Sir Thomas

was

was not a little proud of the company he was in. As we got into the barge to go on board, six sailors in company bowed to the Admiral, and, one of them, with an oath, said, the whole fleet could not show so fine a sight as that lady, meaning Mrs. Baddeley; and, another swore, if he was George the Third, she should be his queen. "Bravo," "Jack," said Admiral Spry, and gave the fellow a guinea to drink her health. As soon as we were seated in the barge, the Admiral was saluted by a discharge of guns. When we came along side the Barfleur, the ship was manned to receive us, and the Captain, whom I knew from his childhood, was as happy to see us as can be expressed. We were con-

ducted into the Admiral's apartments, and chocolate, with various sorts of cakes and preserves were brought before us. We were then shewn the ship, and being very tall, and not stooping sufficiently, I received a slight blow in passing the hammocks which hung over our heads. The Admiral immediately ordered them all down, and not to be hung up again in the day-time, till the review was over. I was not much hurt, but his orders were obeyed; in ten minutes not a hammock was to be seen. We staid dinner, and the table was richly and elegantly served, equal to any nobleman's I ever saw, except the Duke of Queensberry's, which exceeds all description for elegance, neatness,

ness, splendor, and profusion. Our dinner consisted of three courses, and a desert fit for the King, with ices, creams, jellies, syllabubs, pines, and fruit of all kinds, with the most costly wines. Mrs. Baddeley was so charmed with the reception and entertainment she met with, that she did not know how to express herself. She sung, and being asked a second time, sung,

How little do the landsmen know,

What we poor sailors feel ;

When waves do mount, and winds do blow ;

But we have hearts of steel.

No danger can affright us,

No enemy can flout ;

We'll make the Monfieurs right us ;

So, put the can about.

This song, and her manner of singing it, delighted the whole company. The Admiral considered it as a compliment paid him, and ordered his Secretary to remember and get it, that it might be sung in memory of Mrs. Baddeley, when they were many leagues from thence. She was requested to sing it again, and, with the variations she threw in it, the emphasis she laid on particular words, and the action she made use of throughout, she put the whole company in raptures. After dinner, tea and coffee was served in silver equipage. A band of music was now introduced, and many fine pieces they played; and, on our wishing to go on shore, the Admiral requested of Mrs. Baddeley one favour, which

which was, before our departure, to sing the seaman's song again, and upon deck, accompanied with the music; she complied as before, with an additional flow of spirits, and the whole ship's crew joined in chorus. When she had done, I requested her, on my part, to close the whole with, *God save the King*. The Admiral was delighted, said all his men should join her, and it was sung, and chorused by the crew, with a thunder of applause from every part of the ship; and, I received the thanks of every one present. Every man, by the Admiral's order, drank his Majesty's health, with three cheers. The ship was then manned again, every one to his station. Sir Thomas Mills and the Admiral accom-

nied us on shore; and, we could do no less, than express our gratitude at this hospitable and polite entertainment.—

Admiral Spry told us, the King was to dine on board the *Barfleur* the next day, and of course he could not have the honour to attend us; but, the day after, he claimed our promise of being on board again, and recommended us to be in time the next day, to secure a good place on land, to see the review; then leaving us to the care of Sir Thomas Mills, he took his leave, saying, his attendance on board was necessary, to see all was in order for his Majesty's reception. More than twenty of the nobility had called at our lodgings, and left their names. His Majesty, we under-

understood was now come, for guns were firing, the bells were ringing, and the houses were illuminated, and every demonstration of joy shewn in all parts of town. We ordered our coach, and rode through it. After riding about an hour and a half about the town (Sir Thomas with us), and delighted with the gratitude of all ranks of people to his Majesty, we returned home to supper; and Sir Thomas, promising to be with us early, took his leave and with-drew.

We ordered the carriage by eight o'clock in the morning, as Sir Thomas said his Majesty would be very early, looking about the fortifications, batteries, &c. before he went on board; we
were

were up at six, and by eight were full-dressed for the day, at which hour Sir Thomas came. We rode about, accompanying his Majesty in his circuit; where he was attended by thousands of all ranks, who seemed to contend with each other in their praise and congratulations. We thought nothing wanting to complete the scene, but the presence of her Majesty, (who was not at Portsmouth upon this occasion), to share in the general joy of the thousands who came here from all parts of the world. I do not mean to give my readers an account of this review, which has been retailed at large, in all the public prints; I shall only say, that the splendor of the sight exceeded any description of mine.

In

In the evening we went to the play, attended by Sir Thomas, and sent to the Admiral to solicit his company. He returned word, that he would certainly be there, but he feared it would be late first. The house was crowded, and the piece performed was, *Romeo and Juliet*, with a Harlequin entertainment. Wroughton performed Romeo, and the play was tolerably well performed, till an interruption took place in the gallery. In that part of the play where Juliet exclaims, "Romeo, Romeo! Wherefore art thou Romeo?" "Look a-head my dear girl," says a sailor above, "and you'll soon find him. Was I near him, I'd kick him to hell, for not coming to so sweet a creature."

“ture.” This made the whole house laugh so immoderately, as to stop the performance for some time. The fellow went on, and others joined him. “That Roman,” (as they called him) “will be soon fore and aft with the dear “girl, I’ll warrant him.” When the entertainment began, in came the Admiral, apologizing for being so late, as he had but just left his ship. He told us he should have many of his choicest friends with him the next day, who promised themselves great pleasure in our company. When Harlequin made his appearance, the sailors began again. One said, if that dapper-patched dog, who he believed stole his jacket from the dressing of the ships, had been with

Mr.

Mr. Roman, he would have paid him well with his rapper, he'd warrant. For the poor pretty girl's sake, he wished he'd come again. This set the house again in a roar, and when he said the dog had stole his jacket from the ships silks, Lord Townshend, who was present, laughed heartily, and wrote it down with a pencil. Sir Thomas and the Admiral supped with us.

The next morning we were up at six, and we dressed ourselves to the greatest advantage. Mrs. Baddeley put on all her jewels, and her rich diamond necklace, on which I had borrowed two hundred pounds, but soon after redeemed. Admiral Spry, and Sir Thomas Mills found

found us ready when they called. They conducted us on board, as before, and we were received in the same manner. During breakfast, a band of music played, and when breakfast was over, the signals were displayed, as when his Majesty was present. We saw the whole with great pleasure and ease to ourselves, and in much greater perfection than the day before. The King was on board another ship; the day was a fine one, and the sight beyond description. During the spectacle, we were a little surprized by the violent scream of a young voice on board, but could not learn the occasion, the attention of all present being fixed on the business of the day. Chocolate and cakes were handed round

to all the company, and the whole ended some little time before dinner; when the music struck up, *God save the King*, and Mrs. Baddeley, and the whole ship's crew joined in chorus. When dinner was announced, we went into the cabin, to the number of eighteen. The first course consisted of twenty one dishes, was served up in plate; the rest of the dishes served in beautiful china, besides a desert. Every thing in season was before us; and there were six Admirals of the party. Admiral Spry was happy and merry, and when dinner was over, had the music strike up. Calling on Mrs. Baddeley for a sentiment, she took a glass of champagne, and gave, "May every engagement at sea, be attended

VOL. III. M " with

“ with the loss of as few lives, as that
“ of *this* day ; but may we be ever vic-
“ torious over the French !

This sentiment pleased ; it went round,
and was written down by a gentleman
present. I was then called upon for
mine, and gave, “ May there never be
“ greater cause for engagements, than
“ the cause of this day ; and may all
“ belonging to his Majesty’s navy, enjoy
“ the blessing of peace ! ” This was also
penned down. After every sentiment
we had a song. Admiral Spry sung
Heart of Oak, &c. and was chorused.
When it came to Mrs. Baddeley’s turn to
sing, she begged their choice, and was
requested

requested to sing, "*Where little foolish flut-
tering thing,*" &c. from the *Padlock*.—
She did, and when she came to that
part,

Where little wanton would you be

Half so happy as with me?

a gentleman present, cried out aloud,
"No where, by G—d," which made
her and the rest laugh so much, that she
could not go on for some time. "No
more of your declarations, Captain,"
said the Admiral, "let's have the song."
"Flesh and blood," returned he, "*will*
peak." This caused a fresh laugh;
however, having finished her song, a
sentiment was given, and she called for
another. After a little time was spent
in singing, some proposed cards, and

others a dance; and Mrs. Baddeley was asked to dance a minuet. But she, who was accomplished in every thing else, was but an indifferent dancer, and declining, I was applied to. The young gentleman who asked me, being from the North, I enquired whether he could dance a Scotch reel. He replied, "yes;" we therefore proposed to finish the minuet with a reel. My partner danced exceedingly well, and of course we made no bad figure.—All present were delighted. The Admiral then returned me thanks, saying, he was ashamed to intrude, but as he was sure a person who danced a reel so well, could also dance a hornpipe; requested, if I could, to oblige him with one. I did, and to
the

the tune of Nancy Dawson, which charmed them all. From this we proceeded to country dances, and danced till tea-time. After tea we had more singing. In short, our day was most agreeably spent; but just before we thought of going, a story came out, that damped our spirits. "If you remember, ladies," said Captain Knight, (who was Captain of Admiral Spry's Ship,) "you asked in the time of the engagement, what occasioned a scream you heard: I have just been told that melancholy tale by the Surgeon. A pretty boy on board belonging to one of the Lieutenants, had done some trifling thing to offend his master; who running after him, in order to chastise him, the poor

“ boy, in order to escape, made an attempt
 “ to jump a-crofs the copper, in which,
 “ meat for the crew was boiling, in hopes
 “ to get behind it: but, in his hurry, he
 “ fell into it, and was taken out with all
 “ the flesh burnt from the soles of his
 “ feet, and part of his body. Such a sight
 “ has never been seen on board before.
 “ In this miserable state, the poor lad was
 “ wrapped in an oiled sheet, for his face
 “ was equally scalded, and taken to the
 “ Hospital, where he lived in torture till
 “ within this half hour.” This threw a
 cloud on all our merriment, and as it
 grew late, we begged leave to go a-shore.
 The barge was accordingly ordered,
 and the Admiral, apologizing to the
 company for leaving them, in order to
 escort

escort the ladies and his friends on shore, accompanied us there and returned.

The next day Admiral Spry, and Sir Thomas Mills, breakfasted with us, and after breakfast we walked round the town: in our walk we met with Captain Fawkner, with his brother Everard. He noticed us, and bowed, and after he had passed us, followed us up and down, gazing occasionally at Mrs. Baddeley, and she at him, but did not offer to join us. Finding this, I complained of being weary, and wished to return home; however, as she passed Captain Fawkner, she said aloud to the Admiral, that he might hear, " I have taken places
" in the boxes to-night for us all; and
" we

“we will go to the play.” After accompanying the Admiral to his boat, we returned home with Sir Thomas; but he, being engaged to dinner, took his leave for half an hour to dress; saying, he would attend us during the review, and to the play in the evening. Mrs. Baddeley was pleased at this; as it gave her an opportunity of seeing Captain Fawkner, who made his appearance as soon as Sir Thomas Mills had turned his back. He flew to her, kissed her hand with rapture, and said, “Cannot I see you to-day?” She told him not, as the party she came down with, would be with her the whole day, and accompany her to the play at night. Captain Fawkner said he should
be

be at the play, and took his leave. No sooner had Sir Thomas left us to go to dinner, but Captain Fawkner, who certainly must have watched his going and coming, came to us, and dined with us. He solicited he might see her the next day, if it was but for ten minutes; and, she promised to let him know, if possible, whether she could see him. When they parted, they looked at each other like lovers, unwilling to separate; and when I told her that I noticed it, she said, he was so good, so handsome, so sweet, that an angel must love such a man.

Before the Theatre was opened, the Admiral and Sir Thomas called, and
took

took us the distance of five miles on the London road, to drink tea with a friend, whose family consisted of him, his lady, and three daughters, women grown. They pressed us to stay the evening, but the play was our excuse, and we came away, promising to dine with them in our way to town. Entering the box at the Theatre, we found Captain Fawkn-
ner. Mrs. Baddeley sat down as near to him as she could; but, it was not noticed by our company, as they had no suspicion. Presently came in Captain Fawkn-er's brother, who sat down by him. Mrs. Baddeley's attention was engrossed by him who sat near her, and she took no notice of the play. She proposed on our return to set off for
London

London the day but one after, as she designed shortly to go to Oxford to see Lord North installed Chancellor. "How came you," said I, "to think of this; and who is to be of your party?" She told me, Lord Palmerston and Mr. Montagu, son of Lord Sandwich, who was then, with many others, to have a Doctor's degree. This being settled, Admiral Spry said, he would acquaint his friend to-morrow morning, and would accompany us there the next day to dinner; and, that to-morrow, before dinner, he would attend us to Gosport, to shew us the place. In the morning, she went and invited Captain Fawcner to breakfast, much against my inclination. She used various means, and tried several ways to
get

get me to leave them ; but, being determined to the contrary, all her plans were ineffectual. At last the pencil went to work, and they were rude enough to write and answer each other before me ; but, I took no notice of it. The time drew near now, when we expected Sir Thomas and the Admiral to call and accompany us to Gosport ; but, she complained of a head-ach, and said she could not go. Accordingly she took her leave of Captain Fawkner, and we excused ourselves with the Admiral. This gave me an opportunity to prepare for our journey. Mrs. Baddeley continued ill till six, when I went to her, and she then, brought as it were to reflection, laughed, and threw her arms

arms round my neck, and thanked me for my conduct to her in the morning, in not leaving her alone with Mr. Fawkner.

One o'clock next day was the hour fixed for our leaving Portsmouth, in order to dine with Admiral Spry's friend. Mrs. Baddeley, however, was up and dressed by nine, when Captain Fawkner called upon her again, to enquire how she did, and hoped he did not intrude; his pencil told him not: for he called on her by appointment yesterday. The few hours she had to spare, passed away in sighs and looks; for, as I never left them, they had no opportunity of exchanging words, but in general con-

VOL. III. N versation.

versation. The coachman coming to the door, he took his leave. In a few minutes came our friends, and we set off to dinner, as engaged, and where we were elegantly entertained; and the whole family being musical, we had a concert after it. When Mrs. Baddeley sung, the old lady, who was unacquainted with her situation in life, was so charmed with it, that she said, it was a misfortune to all lovers of music, that she was independent; or she might otherwise make a fortune in London, at the Theatres. At this, we could scarce keep our countenances. They pressed us to stay all night, the old lady, saying, she was determined to have an angel with her one night (for so she called

called Mrs. Baddeley), we staid, and the next morning they perswaded us to accompany them to several gentlemens feasts in the neighbourhood, which they should take a pleasure, they said, in shewing us. Saying, in my ride, that I was born in Westminster, the old lady asked me, if I knew any thing of the widow of Mr. Hughes, late flater to his Majesty, and whether she was living; telling me she was a near relation of her's; that they were brought up at the same school, and that she was a very valuable woman. "Yes, Madam," said I, "that lady is living." "Before you go then," returned she, "I will trouble you with a line." "I will deliver it," said I, "with pleasure, for I have the honour

“ to be one of that lady’s daughters.” At this, she caught me round the neck, shed tears of joy, and kissed me. On our return to her house, she made me, if possible, more welcome than before, and there was no quitting it. She made us stay with her four days, and promised on our departure to bring her family to town, and come and spend a week with us. During our stay, we had the Admiral and Sir Thomas Mills with us every day, and the Admiral was delighted, that he was so fortunate as to bring us together. We preserved our acquaintance with this lady till she died, which was some years after.

On

On our leaving this family, we made the best of our way to town, and reached it next morning at two o'clock. We there found letters and messages in plenty; but were too tired to read them, or hear more than that we must set out for Oxford in two days. Lord Palmerston had called more than ten times, and was fearful we should not return in time, and begged we would let him know as soon as we arrived.

We did not rise the next day till noon, when we sent to Lord Palmerston, who came immediately; said, we must send to Oxford to provide beds, for there was so much company going, that beds would be let for five guineas a

night; that Mrs. Sheridan was to sing there, and that what we should see, would be very different from the spectacle at Portsmouth, yet would equally entertain us; and, that we must set off the day but one after, with our own horses, for all the horses on the road were bespoke; and if we did not send off that night, it would be ten to one, whether we should get a bed. We, therefore, sent off one of our servants express, and gave him orders to procure us a lodging: his Lordship requested a corner in our carriage, and we could not refuse him.

If there was any further connexion between Lord Palmerston and Mrs. Bad-

Baddeley, than what I was acquainted with, it was between themselves; she never acquainted me with it: and, as she was too communicative at times, for her own happiness, I should suppose she would have acquainted me with this, as she did with her other secrets. All I know is, that his Lordship's behaviour to her was always consistent with the friend and gentleman; and his politeness at our house, did him, in my sight, great honour. He was not, however, sparing of his commendations of her; and, as he was then an unmarried man, he might be permitted to pass his compliments as he thought proper.

Deter-

Determined to make the best appearance at Oxford, as we had done at Portsmouth, Mrs. Baddeley had some new cloaths made up for the occasion; with a great deal of fashionable millinery. She said her diamond necklaces would make a beautiful band round her bosom; all she wanted was a bow for her breast, and one for each sleeve, which she said she could hire of Mr. Bellas, the jeweller, in Pall-mall, for about fourteen pounds, and hoped I would approve of it. I opposed it with saying, that put the expence of it out of the question, the imprudence should be sufficient to prevent her; that nature had been bountiful to her; that she wanted no such additional ornaments; and that she
would

would be as much if not more, admired without them. I told her that vanity and extravagance was pointed at more than she thought of; that a less expensive dress would be considered as the produce of her own professional industry; but, decorated with diamonds, as she proposed, the world would only sneer at her, and cry. "Look at Mrs. Baddeley! Take notice of her diamonds! See what a quantity she has!" "And how did she get them?" says another. "They are only the rewards of prostitution." "And what then?" returns she, angrily. "I care not for any of their remarks; I *will* have the bows, and nothing shall prevent it. My person is my own, and I will do with it as I please;

“ please ;” and, growing still more enraged at the dread of a disappointment, she continued, “ Nay, I will do more
“ than ever I have done yet; for I will
“ not be debarred from *seeing* who I
“ please, and *doing* with them what I
“ please—I will have twenty times the
“ quantity of diamonds I have.”—At this, she burst out into tears of rage, and sent her servant off for the diamonds she wanted. I let her go on uninterrupted; and, when she had finished, she ran out and bolted herself up in another room. In short, I never saw her in such a passion before, and, found from this, that I could only keep her within bounds, by soft-reasoning, persuasion, and giving way to her folly in many things.

things. When Mr. Bellas came with the diamonds, and she had agreed with him for the hire, she brought them up, and laid them down before me, with a degree of triumph, saying, “ Now I
“ have began, I am determined to go
“ on ;—I will send for Mr. Fawkner,
“ and Mr. Storer, and every one I
“ think proper ; and, I will do with
“ them as I please.” This declared, and studied opposition to every thing I thought right, I must own nettled me, and I replied, with firmness, “ *Do,*
“ —send for them,—pursue your own
“ destruction ;—but it must be alone,
“ and not with me, I most solemnly
“ assure you. I have long been a slave
“ to your folly, but I will now end it ;
“ see

“ see then who you will, and act as you
“ think proper; but, as I have too
“ much regard for you to see it, I will
“ study my own happiness, and leave
“ you, till time brings you to reflection. Put none of *my* things up for
“ Oxford, for I will not go; and as this
“ house seems to suit you, I will let it
“ to you; for, I am resolved to leave
“ you this day; determined you shall
“ have it no longer in your power to
“ treat me with such unkindness, when
“ my conduct and advice to you merits your best thanks and gratitude.
“ I will go this instant to my mother’s,
“ where I will dine and I will sleep at my
“ sister’s; and, to-morrow, if you will
“ come to a settlement, I will give you
“ seven

“ seven years to pay me what you owe
 “ me; and, to convince you, I do not
 “ part in enmity, I will accommodate
 “ you with any money you may now
 “ want; and any service I can do you,
 “ at a distance, you may command.”

At this, I took my hat to put it on; when she flew to me, took me fast into her arms, and cried, and sobbed so much, that it made my heart ach: she then fell on her knees, begged my pardon, and declared, if I left her, she would stab herself the next minute.—I told her, coolly, that I had made up my mind upon the occasion, and would ever be her friend through life; but, that her declarations had really shocked me, and that I could not continue with

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her under them, and begged she would not hold me. She was in such an agitation that alarmed me; said, she should die, if I did not relieve her mind, by promising not to leave her. To quiet her, I, at last, said, that I would not. She then blessed me a thousand times, still holding me in her arms; and, when I found her agitation a little over, I said, "Now, if you please, we will have a little serious conversation." She replied, "I can hear *nothing* till you again promise not to leave me. Do this; be friends; and I will submit to any thing." I then promised I would not leave her for the present.— "That word *present*, my dear, dear Steele," said she, "I do not like.—

" Give

“ Give me your hand.” I did. “ Now,” continued she, “ forgive my vile temper, and I will never more offend you. I know too well your good wishes for me, and therefore entreat you to pass over in oblivion, what has happened to day; and I will never give you cause to complain of me again. There is not a servant in this house that is not wretched on account of this quarrel, for they value you much more than me; and, I am convinced, when they know we are friends, they will be as happy as before.” Thus was her foolish obstinacy, for the time, got the better of;—we kissed each other, and all was to be forgotten.

We then began to pack up our things, for our journey: (this was in the year 1772), and when she put up her diamonds, she threw them into her box, with a, "Curse on these baubles!--I wish
" the devil had them all before I saw
" them!" I took no notice of this, but went on till we had finished; and gave orders for the carriage, &c. to be ready the next morning at six o'clock.

Lord Palmerston being with us at six, we set out together; reached Oxford in the evening, and found our servant had provided us a good lodging, at the expence of five guineas for one week. His Lordship promised to conduct us to the Theatre, the next day, but wished
before

before he left us, to speak to Mrs. Baddeley in private, having a secret to communicate, which respected her only, and which could be intrusted only to her private ear. I accordingly left the room, and his secret, as she afterwards told me, was only to request the grant of that favour, she had often so imprudently granted to others; and his behaviour, she said, was so ungentlemanlike, that she was sure the whole house must have known it, and she was fearful it would get all over Oxford. However, says she, as I promised his Lordship, upon his apologizing, that I would not acquaint you with it; I hope you will not notice it. I promised her, I would not, but that after we left Ox-

ford, I should admit no more of his visits. Till this transaction I entertained the highest opinion of his Lordship, and thought him a good man; but, I find I am subject to the weakness, common to my sex; namely, to think better of mankind than they deserve.

His Lordship attended us to the Theatre next morning; and procured us very good seats. It was presently full; and all the company being full-dressed, it had a very splendid appearance. Lord Palmerston now left us, to attend Lord North, who soon entered the Theatre robed, and in this dress so much resembled the King, that, had they been together, few would have known them apart.

The

The same reason that I did not lay before my readers, the ceremonies, and all the particulars of the spectacle at Portsmouth, held good with respect to that at Oxford; that the whole has been already given to the public through the news-papers. All I shall observe is, that we were well entertained for three days, and that Lord North had as much attention and respect paid him, on the occasion, by persons of all ranks, as was shewn to his Majesty in his visit to Portsmouth; and his Lordship in return, expressed every mark of gratitude in his power.

An odd circumstance occurred at the Theatre, that shews how necessary it is

to

to be guarded in our conversation in public, with persons we are unacquainted with. When Mrs. Sheridan had sung one of her best songs, a lady who sat next me, asked me whether I did not think she sung well; I replied, "wonderfully; that I had heard much of her, but had never seen her before." She then said, "Mrs. Sheridan is the first English singer of the age." I begged leave to differ with her in that, as I was partial to Mrs. Baddeley. At this instant, Lord Palmerston, who was behind, had joined us, and who had heard our conversation, tapped me on the shoulder, and whispered, that the person I was talking to, was Mrs. Linley, Mrs. Sheridan's mother.

ther. I was in myself sorry for what I had said, but when I considered the vanity of the old lady, I thought she deserved the reply.

Lord Palmerston accompanied us, during our stay at Oxford, round the Colleges, and other places, except the last day, when his engagements would not permit him. On this last day, Mrs. Baddeley wished to see a certain library again. Whilst there, we saw several Oxonians; one of whom fixed his eyes on Mrs. Baddeley the whole time; she also was particularly struck with him, and said to me in a whisper, "Look, " Mrs. Steele, what a beauty of a man! " He is even handsomer than Captain " Fawkner!"

“ Fawkner !” On her saying this, I was for going away, but she would not, continuing to gaze at him, under a pretence of viewing the library. Presently came in Mr. Montagu, a son of Lord Sandwich, who said he had been hunting us these two hours, as he wished to pay his respects to us, and shew us the Colleges. We walked round the place again, with Mr. Montagu, and this young Oxonian followed us every where, till we reached our lodgings, where Mr. Montagu left us with saying, he should take the liberty of calling on us in London. When he was gone, Mrs. Baddeley observed, that of all the handsome men, she ever saw in her life, this young Oxonian was the most beautiful. And
asked

asked me if I took notice of him. "Hang him," said I, "I did not look at him." "Not look at him!" returned she, "I wish you had, for I shall never forget him!" Presently came a footman with a letter, requesting leave to deliver it into Mrs. Baddeley's own hand. He was ordered up and delivering it, begged an answer. Her reply was, "If it requires an answer, I will send one." This letter was from the Oxonian; and was as follows:

"Dear Madam,

"Pardon me for declaring I am
 "so much enamoured with your beauty,
 "that I know not how to express my
 "heart farther, than that I am the most
 "wretched

“ wretched of all men on earth, sup-
“ posing myself not worthy your no-
“ tice ; yet I am emboldened to ask
“ permission, to shew you the College,
“ the honourable gentleman omitted
“ this day to do. If I am indulged in
“ this request, I shall think it the hap-
“ piest day of my life. Your answer by
“ my servant, will be esteemed an ob-
“ ligation, to one who subscribes him-
“ self your obedient, humble servant.

“ Joseph Gill.

“ *To Mrs. Baddeley.*”

Though Mrs. Baddeley wished to
send an answer, none was sent ; for, if
possible, she was more than happy at
the receipt of his letter, and read it over
and

and over again.—“ Burn his nonsense,” said I. Presently came the servant again, with his master’s compliments, begging the favour of an answer. I sent word down, that the letter required none. He then said that he had a note to leave; our servant brought it up. This letter was similar to the other. Mrs. Baddeley saying she must give some answer, ordered the servant to come up. He came, and she said, “ Young man, make
 “ my compliments to your master, and
 “ tell him, I saw every part of the Col-
 “ lege I wished to see, the first day I
 “ came to Oxford; but, notwithstanding
 “ this, I am much obliged to him for
 “ his politeness on the occasion.” The servant bowed and went. “ Well”, said
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she, to me, “ I shall never hear any
“ more of him ; so don’t make yourself
“ uneasy.” I then proposed going to
town the next day ; but she wished to
see Blenheim, before she went ; and
seeing this gentleman pass by, as I found
afterwards, she would go out and buy
some gloves. We were no sooner in
the shop, than in he comes to buy
gloves also. He spoke to her, hoped
she was well, and reddened like fire ;
she coloured likewise. He hoped, he
said, she would pardon the liberty he
took, in writing to her ; not knowing
she had seen the College, till his servant
brought him back an answer. When
we left the shop, he handed us down the
steps, and requested Mrs. Baddeley to
indulge

indulge him with a minute or two's conversation; she told him she could not, that she was near home, where he could not be admitted; and then asked him how far it was to Blenheim; as she designed going there the next day. After telling us, he reluctantly took his leave, sighing.—When we returned to our lodgings, she remarked, that he was a well-bred young gentleman, and was much handsomer when near than when at a distance; and that she would, if she dared, without offending me, have invited him to tea.—I told her I saw through her design in asking how far it was to Blenheim, and would lay ten guineas he would be there. She assured me

she had no view in what she asked him, and was sure he would not be there.

Lord Palmerston called in the evening, and would have attended us to town; but, on saying we meant to go to Blenheim, he was sorry it was out of his power to wait on us there, as business of consequence called him away, and if she was determined not to go, he would leave Oxford immediately. On asking him whether it was not dangerous travelling by night, he said no, he never carried much money with him, and therefore was regardless: then putting a piece of paper on the table, he said, her horses and servants would cost her something to town; and he begged he might leave that, to enable her men to pay
the

the turnpikes. He then took his leave and departed. When he was gone, we looked at the paper, and found it a fifty pound bank-note. Mrs. Baddeley observed, that it was a poor present, but every little was of service.

We went to Blenheim the next day, the seat of the Duke of Marlborough; and as I expected, we there met with Mr. Gill. He was well-dressed, and came up and paid his respects to us; hoped we would pardon the liberty he took in coming there, but as he heard us say we meant to see that place, he would not miss the opportunity of making his bow to us, if he found us disengaged; and, thank God, he had that hap-

pinefs. I faw ſhe was pleaſed ; ſhe told him he was very polite, and he accompanied us round the place ; and I took notice that ſhe prolonged the time of viewing it, as much as ſhe could. She asked him, if there was any other place near there worth ſeeing ; he told her Lord Abington had a feat within five miles ; if ſhe would permit him, he would attend her there. Accordingly ſhe conſented, ſaid her ſervant might take his horſe, and he might, if he pleaſed, get into the coach ; he was as happy at this, as a man could be ; and ſhe ſeemed not leſs ſo. He began preſently to talk of love, but Mrs. Baddeley, firſt looking at *him*, and next at *me*, put a ſtop to it ; though her eyes and his both talked to
each

each other. This young gentleman, was about one or two and twenty years of age, sensible and clever; and it was not to be wondered at, that he should be smitten with her beauty, which had already attracted hundreds.

When we reached this house we was upon the road to see, and which was a very long five miles to it; it was not worth viewing. However, she did not think so, nor would have thought so, had it been a Cottage only, as it gave her more of his company. As soon as we saw the house, it was necessary to bait the horses. The coachman was ordered to stop at the best inn he could find, and it was settled that we should dine.

After

After dinner and coffee, we proposed returning to Oxford; but, the coachman said, the horses were not well, for two of them would not eat their corn; and, that they should be blooded. Mr. Gill went out to look at them, and was of the same opinion, and thought, if they were bled, and a warm mash given them, they would be fit to travel the next day. This sickness of the horses, I have reason to believe, was all a pretence, and settled between Mr. Gill and the coachman; for, Mrs. Baddeley said, when Mr. Gill went into the stable, “ If I could get a divorce from Mr. “ Baddeley, and this young man would “ marry me, I would take him for life, “ and live contented in any situation he “ could

“ could place me in; so as you, my dear
 “ Steele, would promise to be with
 “ me.” I told her, it would be the
 summit of my wishes to see her the wife
 of a man who would make her happy.
 At Mr. Gill’s return, we found there
 was no getting further that night; and,
 therefore, determined to stay till next
 morning, and he continued with us.
 We passed the evening cheerfully; Mrs.
 Baddeley sung, and delighted him be-
 yond measure, and the time slipped away
 fast. At supper-time he took his leave,
 and promised to be with us the next
 morning at breakfast. When he was
 gone, she ran on wildly of his pretty
 behaviour, his insinuating address, and
 his engaging manners; and, marry
 him

him she swore she would, if it was possible, and leave all mankind for him. She told me, that whilst I was writing to my husband, she had learned from him, that he was the second son of a gentleman at Reading, who had an independent fortune of one thousand pounds a year; that he was brought up for a clergyman, having a living promised him, which he could live happy on, with what his father could afford to give him; "So," continued she, "you see how inquisitive I have been; and, as he has declared that he loves me, if I can any ways obtain a divorce, I will marry him, for I love him beyond description." "Observe, now," said I, "how childishly you act, and how easily

“ easily you are to be led aside.” “ No-
 “ thing,” replied she, “ could make
 “ me swerve from him. If I married
 “ him I would be faithful to him; and,
 “ depend upon it, I will never suffer
 “ him to take a liberty with me, unless
 “ he *does* marry me. And what can
 “ I do better?” “ Many things,” re-
 turned I, “ as I have often repeated.”—
 “ Yes,” said she, “ follow my profes-
 “ sion.—I hate my profession; but, had
 “ I this angel of a man, if he thought
 “ proper, I would pursue this profession
 “ to help him.” “ Stuff,” said I,
 “ you are as changeable as the wind,
 “ and I am convinced, would be tired
 “ of him in a week.” However, I fell
 in with her, and thought, if her plan
 could

could be brought about, it might not be a bad one; and, on my saying so, she cried, “ My dear Steele, if you can
“ assist me in this, God will bless you
“ for it, and so shall I; as I should then
“ sit down contented and happy for the
“ remainder of my life, and would despise every dissipated man of fashion;
“ for, with all their money, all their
“ splendor, and all their fancied happiness, their life is a wretched one;
“ and their round of dissipation a tiresome labour. And as to one, in my
“ unfortunate situation, there is no living with them, without following
“ their follies; and if one does not make
“ an appearance equal with them, they
“ think nothing of us; and, if one
does,

"*does*, it is called extravagance." She then begged I would not prevent her seeing Mr. Gill; for she had no other view in it, than to get him for a husband. I asked her how she could obtain a divorce; she replied, By suing Mr. Baddeley for living in adultery. She had been told she could do this, and she would make the attempt.

In the morning, hearing a horse come into the yard full speed, she jumped out of bed, and said, she was sure it was Mr. Gill; and the chamber-maid entering the room shortly after, said, the gentleman was come, and breakfast was ready. On our coming down, after

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the proper compliments had passed, we enquired how our horses were, and were told not much better, and that a farrier should be sent for. A farrier came, and said, they had received a violent chill, and had caught cold, and if they were taken out of the warm stable that day, they would die; but, that the next day, with care, they might be able to proceed on their journey. I still thought this was a scheme of Mr. Gill's, or indeed for the good of the house, and of course went into the stable myself; and, as far as I could judge, they were ill; for they trembled exceedingly: so, it was agreed then, to stay the event of the morrow. I called, however, for the bill, left the young gentleman (for I found

found he had ordered it) should pay it. I told the landlady, if he asked any thing about it, to say it was discharged by the ladies. Telling Mrs. Baddeley what I had done, she thanked me, saying, she would not suffer him to pay any thing. Mr. Gill presently came in, and said, “ Ladies, I am so much
 “ ashamed of myself, that I scarce know
 “ how to see you. I went just now to
 “ pay the bill, and found you had done
 “ it; pray oblige me, by permitting
 “ me to return you the money.” Mrs. Baddeley, said, “ Not a word, Sir,
 “ more of that, if you please; I consider you as a visitor, and, it is a rule
 “ with me, never to accept a favour of
 “ this kind, even from my best friend.”

He bowed, and begged pardon, and hoped he had given no offence. We then put on our hats for a walk round the village, and seeing a poor man with a harp, Mrs. Baddeley ordered him to the inn; found he played well, and knew almost every song she could sing; of course the morning was spent delightfully, for she sung a variety, he accompanying her, and kept him upwards of two hours; then giving him five shillings, she bad him go into the kitchen and eat something. The poor man, at the sight of the five shillings, cried with joy, saying, his wife was that day delivered of a child on the road, and he had it now in his power to give her some comfort. On being asked how far

far

far she was off, he said, three miles, describing the place, where a poor cottager had taken her in. On this, Mr. Gill and I gave him half a crown each; and, Mrs. Baddeley said, “ Instead of
 “ staying to eat your dinner, take a
 “ bottle of brandy for your wife, and
 “ make all the haste to her you can.” The poor man fell on his knees and blessed us. Mrs. Baddeley, from the various impositions she had met with, doubted the truth of this man’s story, and Mr. Gill being of the same way of thinking, said, if she chose to enquire further into it, her man might take his horse and go there; for, as I talked of going to see her, should the fellow have told a lie, I should have saved myself the

trouble of a journey. The coachman was dispatched, and found the woman, who had been delivered that morning, laid with her infant on some clean straw, with a few things only to cover her; he said, she was a pretty woman, looked very ill, and asked his charity; that, he gave her two shillings, saying, his heart ached at the sight; that he overtook her husband on the road, walking as fast as he could; but, that he passed him, and took no notice of him. On hearing this tale, we sent for the mistress of the house, told her the story, and begged she would inform us where we could get her a bed. She replied, that her hostler had a bed, a couple of blankets, and a rug, to dispose of, and that a guinea would

would purchase them ; and, as we were so well disposed, she would send her a pair of old sheets. Hearing there was a bedstead in the cottage, the bed was bought, and sent off instantly in a cart. The landlady sent one of her maids with it, and also the warming-pan, and ordered her to see the poor woman comfortably put to bed. Whilst we were at dinner, the maid returned, telling us how happy we had made the whole family, and that a thousand blessings were returned us ; and, that our servant, unknown to us, had taken her a bottle of gin, which he paid for out of his own pocket. The mistress said, she had looked out a few old things of a sort, for the woman and her child, which she

would

would send her; that she mentioned her situation and distress to some ladies in the house, who, among them, had given her to the amount of a guinea; and, that an out-rider to a tradesman, in London, then in the kitchen, had paid her for two gallons of caudle, which she was also to send her.

As we were going to tea, the poor harper returned, and began playing without the house, but in our hearing; and sung, as he played, the following song.

It is not wealth, it is not birth,

Can value to the Soul convey :

Minds possess superior wealth,

Which Time, nor Chance, can take away.

&c.

When

When he had done, he came in and returned us so many thanks, that rather distressed us, it being a blessing to a generous mind to do good unnoticed, and unrewarded, but by the actions done. He played a good while, and we bad him come again in the morning. When he went, he took home a variety of things which the mistress of the house had looked up for him; and Mrs. Baddeley gave her servant half a guinea as a reward for his humanity. Mr. Gill, in the evening, said, he had a little business to execute for his father, about four miles off, and hoped we would excuse him for an hour. He went, and his business was to see this poor woman; and order her husband to call on him

him at Oxford the next morning at six, for it was but five miles from this place, and he would give him some clothes; and, that when his wife was able to travel, to bring her to Oxford, and take a lodging for her; and he would, among his friends, provide for him, and find some employ for her; and, giving her a guinea, he left her. He was soon back, but took no notice to us where he had been. Thus was a humane act done, and, perhaps, a poor creature's life saved at a little expence; and how many such like acts might be done, to serve our fellow-creatures, if so much money was not badly dissipated!

Mrs.

Mrs. Baddeley was very chearful the whole day; said, she did not intend that Mr. Baddeley should be long her master, for she would soon get rid of him. "How?" said Mr. Gill, "By a pistol?" "No," returned she, "I will sue for a divorce." "That done," replied he, "was I possessed of ten thousand pounds a year, I would lay it all at your feet;" saying, that he should be happy to marry her, if she was not possessed of a shilling. "But," continued he, "this is a hopeless wish; for, as there are so many great men your admirers, I should stand but little chance." Mrs. Baddeley smiled, and said, she thought him a good young man, and wished him to continue so, and

and to turn his thoughts to some woman more worthy of him. It now growing late, she bad him think of returning to Oxford, as she should soon be going to bed. He then ordered his horse, and took his leave, saying he would be with us again at nine to breakfast. When he was gone, she was incessant in his praises; and said, she would move heaven and earth to get divorced, and marry him; for, she found she loved him more than she could express.

Morning came, and Mr. Gill at his appointed time. During breakfast the harper came again. Mrs. Baddeley went out to him, and on her return said, there was a gentleman now in the yard,
playing

playing on the harp; I went out and found it to be the poor man, very well clothed; and on my asking to whom he was obliged for them, he said the gentleman that was with us, and then told us what he had further done, as I have before related; we gave the man a guinea more, and sent him off.

Finding our horses able to travel, we went for Oxford; where, discharging our lodging, we continued our road for London, designing to stop at the house I took near Henley, to see my family who was then in it. Mr. Gill begged to accompany us, and we took him in the coach. We reached the place by dark, and continued there three days, and Mr.

Gill with us. I shall not say what happened under my roof, at this place, for I mean, some time or other, to write my own history; which has been full of adventures, though not of amours, and will entertain the public greatly. I shall not say, therefore, too much of myself here.

On our departure, from this place, Mr. Gill would have accompanied us to town; but Mrs. Baddeley objected to it, and said, in her situation, it would be improper. He then requested leave to wait on us in town, which she consenting to, he took his leave, and we pursued our way to Salt-hill; where we met with Mr. John Damer. He insisted on our dining with him, which we
agreed

agreed to, provided he would let us send the coach to Windfor to fetch the lady, at whose house we had all been, the last time we saw him. He consented, and she soon joined us. A very elegant and expensive dinner we had; when over, she pressed us to go home with her, and sleep there; and asked Mr. Damer to be of the party; but he politely declined, as he was obliged, he said, to go back to town on business; for he had left no orders with his clerks, and his shopmen would not know how to act without him. "I did not understand, sir," said she, "that you was in business: in what profession pray?" He said, he was a linen-draper. We looked grave.—She then requested his address,

saying she would be a customer to him. Pen and ink was accordingly called for, and he wrote down “George Number, “at St. Merry-ask, linen-draper,” saying, he should be proud of her orders, and she should be well served.—“Oh,” says the lady, “I know St. Mary Axe very well.” This past; and after tea, we took our leave of Mr. Damer and accompanied our friend to Windsor. In our way there, she observed that linen-drapers must get a vast profit on their goods, to enable them to live in such a stile, for she was sure the dinner did not cost less than ten pounds. “Indeed,” said she, “by “his manner and polite attention, I took “him for a nobleman, till he gave me “his directions.—Nay”, continued she, “he

“ he was extravagant, for though we
 “ drank but two bottles of wine, I saw
 “ six opened. This is the way inn-keep-
 “ ers get rich !” We could no longer
 refrain from laughing, and told her that
 the gentleman had been joking with her ;
 that he was the honourable John Damer,
 eldest son of Lord Milton.—” How stu-
 “ pid”, said our friend, “ must I have
 “ been then ! For I recollect well now,
 “ when he was at our house, that you told
 “ me he was a nobleman’s son, and as to
 “ his direction at St. Merry Ask, I only
 “ conceived him untaught, and that he
 “ did not know how to spell, of course
 “ took it for St. Mary Axe, near Cheap-
 “ side. How will he laugh at my igno-
 “ rance ! I never was so taken in, in my

“ life. How will you divert yourselves at
 “ my expence, when you meet him again?
 “ No” said I, “ he will think no more
 “ of it, it is his usual fun.” For, when-
 ever he came to our house, not found us
 at home, and saw a strange servant, he
 always left the name of some tradesman,
 and said he brought a bill for payment..

We slept that night at Windsor, and
 on our return to London, met with a
 parcel of Gipsies, who asked to tell our
 fortune. We stopped the coach, and a
 woman who undertook it, ran on with
 a parcel of nonsense, that is not worth
 repeating; however, it made us laugh,
 and kept up our spirits, till we got home,
 where we heard Lord Melbourne had
 been

been twice, wondering what had become of us; Lord Palmerston, once; Mr. Conway, three times; Mr. Montagu, Lord Clanbrasil, the Marquis of Carmarthen, the Duke of Northumberland's gentleman, Lord Pigot, Sir Thomas Mills, Admiral Spry, and many others.

Lord Melbourne was very inquisitive, and seemed much hurt that Mrs. Baddeley could give no better account of her journey. Who went with her to Oxford? Where did she go from Oxford? And, many other questions. She told his Lordship that she spent her time with my family, in the neighbourhood of Henley and the like. "Well," said he, "I must leave you again; for Sir
" Matthew

“ Matthew Featherstone, my Lady’s
“ father, is ill, and at my house at
“ Brocket-hall, and I must go down to
“ him.” He soon after left us, and
Mrs. Baddeley was happy he was gone.

Having some money of Mrs. Baddeley’s in my possession, lest she should be tempted by any new whim to lay it out improperly; I thought it best to pay it away, where it was owing, and proposed settling with the builder, for the additions he had made to Hammer-smith house, which Mrs. Baddeley designed to pay. And when I looked over the bills, I was amazed; they came to seven hundred and fifty-nine pounds, eleven shillings, and eight-pence. My
surprise

surprize at this, made me fly to her to tell her of it. She received the intelligence with great unconcern; said, we had a lease of it, and that it was now a good house, and I must set it down to the article of her extravagance: but, that I must not pay away the money I had, till she got more; for, Lord Melbourne's expence about his house in Piccadilly, had occasioned his not being so bountiful to her as he had been. "However," added she, "if he does not think of us soon, you must remind him." I replied, that I should not, as he had not kept his word with me, though he had been bountiful to her. His Lordship promised to pay my rent, and had not done even that. Mrs. Baddeley said, she would

would pay the rent herself. I told her, in future, when she wished any thing from Lord Melbourne, the best way would be to write a line, and I would give it him. To this she acquiesced, and I then told her, I would call in all the bills where any thing was owing, and try if we could not get them paid. Expences for house-keeping, and other daily expences, were paid weekly.

On calling in the bills, I found them as follow, and the whole to have been run up in the course of three years.

	£.	s.	d.
Miss Brace, milliner, by ballance	120	0	0
Mrs. Bowen, ditto - -	218	18	10
	<hr/>		
Carried over	338	18	10
	Brought		

MRS. SOPHIA BADDELEY. 191

	£.	s.	d.
Brought over	338	18	10
Mrs. Titherfon, ditto - -	180	11	0
Mr. Price, ditto, by ballance of 700l.	230	0	0
Mr. King, mercer, by ballance of more than 1200l. - -	290	0	0
Mr. Titterfon, woollen-draper -	40	10	0
Mr. Burnell, silver-lace man -	30	10	0
Mr. Campbell, coach-maker -	200	19	0
Mr. Dyford, and Mr. Clark, shoe- makers - - -	20	14	0
Mr. Rolson, hatter - -	29	10	0
Mr. Evans, linen-draper -	140	0	0
Mr. King, hoop-maker -	8	10	0
Mr. Tutt, trimming-broker -	18	12	0
Mr. Jefferey's, jeweller, by ballance	180	12	0
Mrs. Whitelock, mantua-maker -	10	14	0
Mrs. Humphries, hosier and glover	20	11	0
Perfumers bills - -	30	19	0
Builders bills - -	759	11	8
Carried over	2531	2	6
Brought			

			£.	s.	d.
	Brought over		2531	2	6
Stable rent	-	-	18	0	0
Cornfactor, in ballance	-	-	48	0	0
Hay and straw	-	-	10	0	0
Farriers bills in ballance	-	-	10	0	0
Flowerist in ditto	-	-	18	0	0
China-man in ditto	-	-	10	10	0
Flambeaux for one year	-	-	20	12	0
			<hr/>		
			£. 2666	4	6

These bills were only in ballance of more than eight thousand pounds, incurred in the time, without any expences of house-keeping, furniture, and the principal part of her diamonds, wages, journeys, expences at public places, and horses. Though Lord Melbourne did not enable me to pay the above, Mrs. Baddeley did not abate in her expences; but

but rather encreased them for some time, till a stop was put to it, which the reader will hereafter be informed of. My mind was very uneasy on account of this great sum owing; for, till I had called the bills together, I was not aware of their amount. On my shewing them to Mrs. Baddeley, she laughed, and said, they were only a milk-score to Lord Melbourne; but, I told her, it was my opinion he would never pay them. "If he won't," returned she, "I will pay them myself."

She now began to think of her divorce, and I advised her to consult Mr. Dunning, late Lord Ashburton. She went to his house, and had his opinion,

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but he would take nothing from her. He told her he had doubts of her success, for reasons she must excuse his giving; but, there was a chance, if she had a mind to try it; and, if she would send an able attorney to him, he would direct him how to act, and give her all the assistance in his power. She accordingly applied to an attorney, said, no money should be wanting; and he promised to see Mr. Dunning, and to let her know the result.

In the evening, we went to the play, and Mr. Storer came into the box, and sat by us the whole evening. What was the cause I know not, but she was not so attentive to him as she used to be,
left

left the house before the entertainment began ; and, when he handed her to the carriage, and would have accompanied her home, she pleaded an engagement, and parted with him. Going home, she told me she would have staid the entertainment, but, finding the people of fashion noticing Mr. Storer, she thought it better to retire. On our return home, we found Baron Diede, the Danish ambassador, had called. This gentleman, among others, though I have not named him before, was one of Mrs. Baddeley's admirers. She received a letter this evening from Mr. Gill, saying, he was impatient to hear of her suing for a divorce, as he should be frantic till it was obtained. " Now,"

faid ſhe, “ I hate all mankind, for I
 “ look round, and round, and find no
 “ face like his.”

Next morning her attorney waited on her, ſaid he had ſeen Mr. Dunning; that there was a probability of ſucceſs in the attempt, but he could not ſay more to *her* on the occaſion. She then left the room, and he told me, that Mr. Dunning was of opinion, as Mrs. Baddeley was ſo well known to have committed adultery herſelf, the court would not take that notice of her complaint, ſo as to avail her in ſuch a manner as to diſſolve her marriage; but, ſhould they not take her conduct into conſideration, ſhe would ſucceed;

“ there-

“ therefore,” said he, “ it depends on
 “ chance. So, that if Mrs. Baddeley
 “ makes the attempt, and her plea falls to
 “ the ground, she must not blame me.”
 I promised to consult her, and he was
 to call again the next day.

Baron Diede now called again, he
 was a polite little man, we saw him; and
 as he had some friends to dine with him
 next day, hoped we would do him the
 honour to be of the party. We accept-
 ed the invitation and he left us.

Not recollecting this gentleman, she
 told me we had frequently met him at
 houses where we dined, and he had been
 at our house more than once. “ He has

“ frequently been at our lodgings,” said
 she, “ when I lived with Mr. Hanger ;
 “ and he came once here when Mr.
 “ Thurlow was with us, now Lord
 “ Chancellor.” “ I recollect it now,” said
 I “ well.” “ Yes,” replied she, “ and
 “ you must recollect that Mr. Thurlow
 “ was with us an hour and a half, and
 “ in all that time, did not exchange
 “ twenty words. He was cried up as
 “ a sensible man ; but I could only
 “ judge of his sense by his silence. And
 “ he could not be a great admirer of the
 “ ladies.” “ Remember,” said I, “ a
 “ close mouth makes a wise head. Be-
 “ sides, being introduced by Mr. Hanger
 “ to his favourite lady, it would have
 “ been forward and impertinent in him,

to

“ to have engrossed the conversation, or
“ have made his friend uneasy by any
“ studied attention to *you*; and I wish
“ men of rank would all follow his ex-
“ ample; there would not be then so ma-
“ ny trifling and treacherous characters.”

Mrs. Baddeley was now applied to by a man, who had formerly been her servant, to procure him a protection from arrest, from some one of the ambassadors. Wishing always to serve the unfortunate, she cried out, “ There is old
“ Count Haslang will do it for me, (who was the Bavarian Minister.) “ if I ask
“ him; for he is full of his compliments
“ me, at all public places. I will write
“ a line to him.” I encouraged her to
this

this, and she gave the man a letter, to take to him. He presently returned and said, the Count sent for him up, and told him, he would, with pleasure, comply with Mrs. Baddeley's request, and he might call for it the next day; and, "pray friend," said he, "make my compliments to her, and tell her I will wait on her as soon as possible." "Nay" said the poor man, half wild with joy, "he will be here, I suppose, in a few minutes, for his chariot and three footmen were waiting at the door. In hopes of being here before him," said he, "I ran over an old woman in Bondstreet, and threw down her barrow of fruit in the street. She cried out, 'Stop thief, stop thief;' and I have been pursued

“fued to your very door.” We could not help laughing at the incident, but sent our fervant to find the woman, and gave her a couple of shillings to make her amends. She abused the poor man much, but our fervant faying he was running for a midwife, and had sent that money to make good her losfs; from curses, she proceeded to bleffings, and he who was, in her opinion, a few minutes before, the vileft dog, was now the beft of men: fo great a change in our way of thinking, will a little money, feafonably given, occafion.

Whilst we were in converfation with this man, Count Haflang’s carriage ftopped at the door. He came in and brought

brought the protection with him; for, as he protected so many, I believe he kept them ready written; and it required only to fill up the blanks to serve particular purposes. It must have been so, for he was with us almost as soon as the man. Presenting the paper to Mrs. Baddeley, he told her he was happy it was in his power to oblige her, and he blessed the occasion that gave him an opportunity of paying his respects to her; for he long wished to say how much she was in his esteem. She, going to take her cat from the sofa, that the Count might not sit down on it, he took her by the hand, and begged the favour of a salute, which she a little angrily refused, and in order to get her
hand

hand from him, gave it a sudden jerk, by which the Baron lost his equilibrium, and his foot being entangled in the train of her sacque, fell all along upon the floor, crying out he had hurt his back. I was ready to sink with laughing; Mrs. Baddeley ran out of the parlour, and I was doing all in my power to get the old gentleman up. She returned and said, she had been to fetch her man to assist him; but she had, in fact, been out of the room to laugh. As neither of us had strength to lift him up, and he was unable to rise of himself, we were obliged to call the maids. We at last got him into a chair, apologizing for the accident, and hoped he was not hurt. He said a little on his back; we called
for

for some rum to bathe it, but he declined our good offices, and said he would go home, and send for his doctor, and he had no doubt he should soon get well; when he would do himself the honour of paying us a second visit. He then hobbled to his carriage, and ordered himself to be driven gently home. When he was gone, we fell into such an immoderate fit of laughter, at the accident of the Baron, and his newly protected servant, whose hands and clothes were besmeared with dirt, by his fall with the old woman, that our maids laughed as heartily as we did. The girls declared the Count had stays on; of course was more frightened than hurt. When the poor man had washed off the
dirt

dirt, we sent for him up, and gave him his protection, which he received with gratitude, and a look of heartfelt ease; that smoothed a brow, furrowed before with anxiety. "I will now" said he, "go and show my face at home, which I have not been able to do, in a week-day, for some time." "But, don't run," said I, "as you did here, for, if you do more mischief in your way, you will get into jail in spite of your protection."

We sent some time after to Count Haslang's, to enquire how he did, and found he was gone to bed; he returned his kind compliments, and said he was

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poorly. The favour, however, Mrs. Baddeley asked of him, did not end here; for, as soon as he was able to go abroad, though we were constantly denied to him, he was with us every day for a month together. We now received the following letter from Lord Melbourne.

“ My Love,

“ I fear I cannot see you to-
“ night. I am just come to town to
“ attend Lady Melbourne to her fa-
“ ther, who is come to town not well,
“ and I fear it will make it *two* late to be
“ able to call on my dear love; if I do
“ not,

“ not, I will be with you to-morrow, if

“ I can, before you are up.

“ Your’s ever,

“ Melbourne.”

To Mrs. Baddeley.

According to our engagement, we dined with Baron Diede. The company consisted of all the foreign ministers, and the late Lord Falmouth. When we sat down to dinner, one of the gentlemen enquired where Count Haslang was, that he was not of the party. The Baron replied, that he had that day received a letter from him, saying, he was confined to his bed, from a fall he had received, and had so much hurt his back, that he could not turn himself.

I dared not look at Mrs. Baddeley; certain, if I had, that we could not have avoided laughing. Lord Falmouth, said, he had seen him that morning, and he was very ill, and on being asked how he met with the accident, replied, his foot slipped in getting into his chariot. The dinner was splendid and elegant, and a band of soft music, in the next room, playing the whole time. When dinner was over, we retired to the music, and Mrs. Baddeley sung many songs. Cards were then introduced, supper succeeded, and thus the evening closed. This meeting introduced Mrs. Baddeley to all the diplomatic body, who were afterwards our visitants, and very polite to her. As
to

to Lord Falmouth, who was an admirer of the ladies, he was frequently at our house. In our way home, Mrs. Baddeley declared she had bitten her cheeks till they were sore, to prevent her from laughing. On our return, we found cards from many, from Sir Francis Molineux, and particularly the Duke of Manchester, the latter of whom was always ready to oblige Mrs. Baddeley in any thing she asked, and she frequently applied to him in behalf of her friends, who wanted assistance in different ways; for, never in her life, did she refuse a good office to those who solicited her, where it was in her power to do it. We sent daily to enquire how Count Hafflang did, and was unhappy to find,

this fall had confined him to his house near three weeks.

Lord Melbourne returned from the country; came to see his dear love, and staid two hours; said to me, he supposed I was a bankrupt; that he had no money about him, but would return in the evening and bring me some. We now took an airing into Hyde-park, and there saw a pretty girl, well-dressed, sitting on the grass, near the ring. I had Mrs. Baddeley take notice of her. She seemed to be about seventeen years of age, very unhappy, and to be the daughter of some reputable tradesman. "Let us go out," said Mrs. Baddeley, "and walk by her;" we did, and I asked her,

her, if she was ill. "Yes, ladies," returned she, "I am very ill, and wish myself "dead." "For what reason?" said Mrs. Baddeley. She then burst into tears, and cried bitterly. We sat down on the grass by her, and begged she would tell us what made her unhappy; and we would be friends to her if we could; and she might assure herself, if her tale required secrecy, it should go no further. Our coach and servants were then at a distance. She told us her name was Harriot Brown, that she was the daughter of an eminent linen-draper, in the city; that her father had three servant-men, one of whom she unfortunately fell in love with; that he kept her company two years

years, in a virtuous way, “ For I
“ meant” said she, “ to marry him.
“ This came to my father’s ears, and
“ he got him pressed and sent to sea ;
“ and, on my saying I would follow
“ him, if I knew where to find him, he,
“ in a great passion, turned me out of
“ his house. I was so unhappy at this,
“ that I did not care what became of
“ me.—I have now been from my dear
“ father three days, and nothing but
“ water have I had ; and this park has
“ been my refuge. At night I get to
“ that stable, and that I may not be
“ seen there, I am out before day-
“ break. I am so wretched, that I
“ have thought several times of putting
“ an end to my life ; but, something
“ forbad

“forbad it.” At the recital of this story, our hearts yearned for her; and, we told her, if she would go home with us, we would undertake to set all things to rights again. She replied, “Oh, no, dear ladies, I am only fit to wander life away in some desert; for, to me it is not worth the holding.” We determined, however, to take her home with us, give her some refreshment, put her into a comfortable bed, and not leave her till we could see her father; and, if he would not receive her, endeavour to do something for her; and this we promised upon our words and honour: she, therefore, agreed to go with us; the coach was called, and we got in. She was very thankful,

thankful, and said, Providence surely had sent us to her protection. Her distress brought tears into our own eyes; we made much of her, and when we reached home, we ordered a fire in the bed-chamber we designed for her, gave her some refreshment, and attended her to bed, where we sat down by her, and told her, we were certain her father must be distracted about her. She said, her mother was at Margate, for the benefit of sea-bathing; that, did she know she was turned out of doors, she would not live a day; and then she burst into tears again, and we sympathised with her. I begged Mrs. Baddeley to continue with her, and I would go to her father.

father. She said, her father was a passionate man, and would probably affront me. I told her, I should not mind that, provided I could bring about a reconciliation; but, that I persuaded myself, he would be happy to see me, for the relief I should bring him, in telling him she was safe.

END OF THE THIRD VOLUME.



ERRATUM

In this Volume.

Page 48, last line, for *you must have pursued*,
read, *you must pursue*.

THE
MEMOIRS
OF

Mrs. Sophia Baddeley,

LATE OF DRURY LANE THEATRE.

BY

MRS. ELIZABETH STEELE.

IN SIX VOLUMES.

VOL. IV.

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M.DCC.LXXXVII.

THE
MEMOIRS

OF

Mrs. Sophia Baddeley.



THE
MEMOIRS
OF

Mrs. Sophia Baddeley.

I Set off to her father's with all the expedition I could make, our carriage being then at the door, considering in the way how I should explain matters. When I reached his house, I went into the warehouse, and enquired for him. The warehouse-man said, he was at home, but could not be spoke to on any
VOL. IV. A 3 business;

-business; but if I would give him my commands, he would execute them the same as if his master was present. I begged to know if Mrs. Brown could be spoke to. He said she was at Margate. I then asked for Miss. "Ah," said he, "ma'am," shaking his head, "I wish Miss *was* in the way!—I perceive you know the family.—Have you heard any thing of Miss Brown's being from home?" Wishing to hear all I could, I asked how long she had been absent.—"Three days," returned he, "and no one that we know has seen her. My master can hear nothing of her, and is almost distracted: for he raves at times like a mad-man, and despairs of ever seeing her again; of course
ma'am

“ ma’am you will now judge how unfit
“ he is to be spoke with on business.”
“ I am sorry,” replied I, “ to hear all
“ this, but must see him notwithstanding—
“ ing; and the sooner the better; there-
“ fore, pray shew me to him, and I will
“ take upon me to say, he will not be
“ displeased with you.” I, at last, pre-
vailed with him, and he shewed me up
to a large room, where sat a decent
creditable person, having his night-cap
and morning gown on, with a handker-
chief up to his face, and in a melan-
choly posture. He rose from his seat,
and requested me to sit down.—I beg-
ged pardon for my intrusion; but, hav-
ing something to communicate, which I
flattered myself would give him com-
fort,

fort, was the cause of it. “ Alas, ma-
“ dam,” said he, “ I have need of that,
“ for you see, before you, as miserable
“ a man as breathes.—Pray tell me
“ good lady, do you know any thing
“ of my lost child ?” “ I do sir,” re-
turned I, “ and have to tell you she is
“ well.” “ God be praised then !” ex-
claimed he; “ I am happy.—This, ma-
“ dam, is real comfort.—Where is she?
“ Am I in my senses or not !” He ran
about the room half wild, and then sat
down to thank me for the information,
and begged I would tell him all I knew
about her, and where he could go and
fetch her home ; saying, she was an
only child, and tenderly did he bring her
up ; that he had been working many
years

years for her ; that all he had she would one day enjoy ; and that of course he wished her well settled in life, and to be the wife of some man of credit and reputation ; instead of which, she had frustrated all his hopes, by falling in love with one of his shop-men, whom she had agreed to marry privately. “ Being informed of this, said he, I was
“ offended ; and in heat of anger, from
“ some words she made use of, bid her
“ get out of my house, and never let me
“ see her more. She, foolish girl,”
“ rashly took me at my word, and went
“ away, and though I have searched all
“ London after her, could hear nothing
“ of her. This, madam, was the cause
“ of my unhappiness. My hastiness has
“ been

“ been it’s own punishment; for like a
“ too fond father,”—(here he burst into
tears, and I could not but do the same),
“ like a too fond father—I feel I love
“ her, in spite of her perverseness.”—
“ Come then, sir,” said I, “ with me,
“ and I will bring you to her.—I have
“ a coach at the door at your service.”
He put on his coat, and was ready in
five minutes; telling his servant he
should return in an hour or two. When
he saw the carriage and the servants, he
begged my ladyship’s pardon, and apolo-
gized for his want of respect: I told
him that I was not honoured with a ti-
tle, but nevertheless was happy I had
it in my power to make him so.—“ For
“ God’s sake, my dear madam,” said
he,

he, “where did you meet with my
“daughter?” For he could now talk
to me with composure; and was quite
another man. I told him, when he saw
her, he should know the whole, and
begged him, till then, to rest easy; for
that he would soon be with her. When
we reached home, he was conducted
up to his daughter, who was then in
bed. He flew to her, took her in his
arms, kissed her, and cried over her:
and this meeting is better conceived
than described. She hung round his
neck, wept bitterly; and, as well as she
could utter her words, craved her fa-
ther’s pardon, and his blessing, to
an unworthy daughter. “Yes, my
“dear child,” returned he, “with all
“your

“ your faults, and all your indiscretions,
“ I feel I am still your father, and can-
“ not but forgive you. My rashness
“ proceeded from the warmth of my
“ affection to you; and if you must
“ throw yourself away, I fear I must
“ submit to it.” “ Dear sir,” returned
she, “ talk not in that strain, I will en-
“ deavour to think better; and, if pos-
“ sible, deserve the love you have this
“ day shewn me.” This affecting in-
terview brought tears from us all; but
they were soon changed into joy. Din-
ner had been waiting some time. The
young lady rose, and dressed herself;
and she and her father dined with us.
After dinner, Miss retired for a few mi-
nutes, and we told Mr. Brown every
thing

thing that passed, and he would have fallen on his knees to thank us, if we had not prevented him. When Miss returned, he took her again into his arms, and wept over her with joy. She then fell on her knees, thanked him for his tendernefs to her, who so little deserved it, and hoped, that he would conceal the story from her dear mother, lest it should make her as unhappy as it had done him. Mr. Brown, now wishing to return home, our coach was ordered; and with a thousand thanks and blessings on us both, the young lady saying, she owed her life to us, and her father declaring we had restored all he held dear on earth, this affectionate couple took their leave; and the self-

gratification this scene afforded, increased our desire of doing further good, and made us search for occasions.— There is scarce a person living, but has, at times; opportunities of relieving the distressed, and gladdening the afflicted; and, I am perswaded, if men were but conscious of the secret pleasure it affords, independent of the reward religion promises, they would never slip the happy moment; and, it is but justice, due to Mr. Brown and his family, to say, that they shewed us their friendship on all occasions, and he was grateful to the hour of his death. Miss afterwards married a tradesman in good circumstances, with the approbation of her father, but died in child-bed.

This

This event had brought on such a self-complacency in Mrs. Baddeley and myself, as made us wish to employ the evening uninterrupted, in our own reflections ; but, Lord Melbourne came and discomposed us. He came in haste, he said, just to keep his word, and bring us some money ; that he left his company at the play-house, and must instantly return. This said, he gave me a paper rolled up, saying, I must do with that as well as I could for the present, and in a few days I should have more. When he was gone, I gave it to Mrs. Baddeley, and she opened it : finding it contained only one hundred and fifty pounds, she exclaimed, “ Here’s a falling off, indeed ! ” — “ You must

“ now,” said I, “ be more prudent, or
 “ how will your debts be paid? Let
 “ us put an end to some of our ex-
 “ pences, let us keep fewer servants.”
 “ O, God,” returned she, “ then we
 “ shall have nothing decent about us.—
 “ I cannot consent to this.”—“ Well,
 “ then,” said I, “ be less expensive in
 “ your dress. Confine it to five hun-
 “ dred pounds a year.” “ Christ,” ex-
 claimed she, “ that is not enough for
 “ millinary!” “ It does not signify,”
 returned I, “ stop you must, or ruin
 “ will ensue.” “ I cannot,” said she,
 “ nor will I be abridged in my dress.—
 “ One may as well be dead as not in
 “ the fashion, and I am determined I
 “ will follow them all.”—I told her, if
 she

she thought of marrying, she must find a way to get out of debt, or the Lord have mercy on the poor man who was to be her husband, for he would soon be in a jail. "That indeed," returned she, must be well considered, for I "would not injure Mr. Gill for the "world. Poor, dear young fellow!—" "I know money will procure any thing, "and, if it costs me a thousand pounds, "I will have a divorce; but, be assured, my dear Steele, let that take "place when it will, I never will think "of marrying, till I am entirely free "from debt." "Then," said I, "the "way to begin, is to pay away what "we have, as far as it will go; for, "every bill we pay, will make the debt

B 3

"less."

“ less.” “ No,” replied she, “ I won’t
“ suffer a shilling to be paid, till I get
“ more money. I think it is proper I
“ should have some money in my
“ pocket; give me fifty pounds, and I
“ will handfale my new purse for luck,
“ and you shall see how careful I will
“ be of it.” This served only to gratify every idle, extravagant thought; for, in the morning, I was called from breakfast to a Mrs. Millidge, a dancer of Drury-lane Theatre, of whom Mrs. Baddeley had some time before agreed to take a set of Worlidge’s gems; and, whilst I was paying her, and talking to her about theatrical matters, which might detain me about three-quarters of an hour, she had purchased eight
white

white mice, with red eyes; a handsome squirrel cage to keep them in; a silver collar and bell for her cat, and new cages for all her birds. I hated mice. She said, they cost her but two pounds twelve shillings, and if I disliked them, she would give them to my sister. In short, in four days, of her fifty pounds, she had not a shilling left; and, when I represented to her the madness of thus squandering her money, and particularly at a time it was so much wanted, and without having any thing to shew for it; she acknowledged the truth of it, threw me her empty purse, and said, I might keep it for her folly.

Lord

Lord Falmouth now paid us a visit, and told us, Count Haslang had paid dear for his frolick, (for he had been made acquainted with the circumstance) saying, he had no rest since it happened, for the pain in his back, which was also attended with a pain of mind; for he was at the same time desperately in love with Mrs. Baddeley, and begged of him to declare it; “and, indeed,” said his Lordship, to Mrs. Baddeley, “he has employed a very improper advocate, for I am over head and ears in love with you myself.” Mrs. Baddeley smiled, and said, he was paying his lady a very poor compliment, to leave so amiable a woman, to place his affections upon her. “I am not alone in
“opinion,”

“ opinion,” returned his Lordship, “ for
 “ you are so engaging, and bewitching
 “ a creature, that half the world is in
 “ love with you.” Mrs. Baddeley rea-
 soned so sensibly with him on this sub-
 ject, that his Lordship candidly con-
 fessed he thought himself at liberty to
 rove as he pleased ; and told her the
 following story, which he assured her to
 be a fact.

“ When first I saw Lady Falmouth,”
 said he, “ she was a pretty girl, and
 “ being then young myself, I made
 “ proposals to her to live with me, but
 “ did not think of her as a wife. She
 “ would not listen to me in this re-
 “ spect, but I omitted no steps to
 “ bring

“ bring her over to my wishes, and
“ at last succeeded. However, like the
“ rest of our ungrateful sex, a little
“ time weaned my affections, and she
“ became indifferent to me, though her
“ affection for me did not abate. I
“ must own myself in fault, and, per-
“ haps, should have relented, but she
“ afterwards played me a trick, which
“ I never have forgiven, nor ever will.
“ She was taken ill of a fever, and was
“ apparently so bad as to be thought in
“ danger. Every necessary assistance
“ she had, at my request, and she got
“ better : she then applied to her physi-
“ cian, brought him over to her interest,
“ and persuaded him to say, and tell
“ me, that there was no hopes of her
“ recovery;

“ recovery ; that her fever was en-
 “ creased by her unhappiness of mind,
 “ conscious of having lived with me in
 “ sin, she could not die in peace, un-
 “ less I would condescend to send her
 “ to the grave an honest woman. This
 “ circumstance had such an effect with
 “ me, as to make me rather unhappy
 “ also ; and, I was induced by her in-
 “ treaties, the persuasions of her phy-
 “ cian, and the assurances I had from
 “ him, that she could not recover ; to
 “ send for a licence and clergyman, and
 “ marry her. The ceremony was no
 “ sooner over, than she visibly grew
 “ better, had the impudence to tell her
 “ nurse, that she affected this illness to
 “ answer the purpose she wished ; and,
 “ the

“ the next day, when I returned home
“ to dinner, I found her in full health,
“ and at the head of my table. She
“ now told me she was a happy woman,
“ and from that time made me know
“ that she was my wife. The decep-
“ tion she made use of, I would never
“ forgive, and her Ladyship and I have
“ never lived happily since.” “ If your
“ Lordship,” replied Mrs. Baddeley,
“ would not be offended with me, I
“ would give you my sentiments on this
“ subject.” He should be glad, he
said, to hear them. “ Now, my Lord,”
returned she, “ if the deceitful trick
“ your lady played, is, as you acknow-
“ ledge, the cause of your present un-
“ happiness, how much cause had she
“ to

“ to be angry with you, for violating
 “ her honour, under the specious pre-
 “ tence of love and affection; when you
 “ could think proper to desert her, and
 “ almost occasion her death? And,
 “ because she thought proper to secure
 “ you to herself, by an artifice, that any
 “ honest woman would glory in, you
 “ now tell me you despise her. For
 “ shame, my Lord!—Never mention
 “ this story again for your own sake.
 “ Your lady certainly deserves you, and
 “ you cannot do enough to convince
 “ her of it.”—“ I am sorry,” said his
 Lordship, “ that you and I differ in
 “ opinion, therefore we will talk no
 “ more of it.” Mrs. Baddeley then
 went to her harpsichord, and his Lord-
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ship finding no attention was paid by her to his declarations, soon made his bow and left her.

We next ordered our carriage, and went to Hammer Smith; where, a young gentleman called on us, said his name was Colonel Harcourt, and wished to know, as we were so little at that house, whether we were disposed to let it, saying, he would give us what rent we pleased. This was only a pretence for introducing himself to Mrs. Baddeley, in order to declare an attachment which hundreds had done before; but, he was soon given to understand, that her affections were fixed and immovable; and, on my reminding her, that she was to be
in

in town at a certain hour, he politely took his leave. Stopping, in our way home, at a shop in Kensington; we met Mr. Thomas Stanley; this gentleman was a Major in the 79th regiment, and died at Jamaica. He was the brother of the present Lord Derby. He asked us to walk into Kensington-gardens; but, on our declining it, said he had seen Mrs. Baddeley the other day at her window, in Grafton-street, wished for an opportunity to speak to her, but dared not, and hoped she would permit him to wait on her at some future time. She replied, he might call if he pleased, but as she was seldom at home, he would probably not meet with her.

On our return home we found the following card from Lord Falmouth.

“ Lord Falmouth presents his compliments to Mrs. Baddeley, and if she
“ is not engaged this evening, will do
“ himself the honour to wait on her.

“ *St. James's-square,*
“ *Thursday, three o'clock.*”

To which she returned as follows.

“ Mrs. Baddeley's compliments wait
“ on Lord Falmouth, informs him she
“ is engaged this evening, but will be
“ happy to see his Lordship at any
“ other time.

“ *Grafton-street,*
“ *Thursday, five o'clock.*”

Baron

Baron Diede called, was admitted and drank tea with us; his visit was to make a proposal to Mrs. Baddeley, to go abroad with him, saying, she should share his fortune; but to this application she was also deaf; and declaring she was engaged, he requested he might then be admitted into the list of her friends, and be permitted to call on her occasionally. Mrs. Baddeley's answer was, that his polite behaviour to her at all times, commanded her respect, and she should be proud of the honour of classing him among those whom she most esteemed. It was now nine o'clock, but notwithstanding this, Mr. Storer called, dressed more like a dancing master than any thing else; having red heels to

his shoes. He danced, and fung, and jumped about the room; and said, he was a happy fellow to catch us at home disengaged; and hoped Mrs. Baddeley was out of leading strings; alluding to my opposition to his seeing her. "Yes," returned I to him, "she can go without being led by you." He replied, he did not mean to offend me. "But sir," returned I, "I mean to offend you, and must tell you, that your coming here is not at all agreeable to me."—"I cannot help it ma'am," said he, humming a tune; "I must come where Mrs. Baddeley is, for I will see her as often as I chuse."—"Indeed you will not," said Mrs. Baddeley, "for I do assure you, such behaviour

“viour to Mrs. Steele, is an affront to
 “me.” “I beg Mrs. Steele’s pardon,”
 returned he, “I never wish to say a
 “rude thing to *her*, if she does not be-
 “gin with me.” “Madam,” conti-
 nued he, addressing himself to me,
 “Mrs. Baddeley and I are better ac-
 “quainted than you suppose.”—I told
 him I did not understand him, nor did
 I wish to do it; and hoped he would not
 put me under the necessity of behaving
 to him in a manner I was not disposed
 to do. He begged my pardon, said,
 it was true that he was in my house,
 but that notwithstanding, he would take
 no denial to see his dear angel, for see
 her he must and would, at the risk of his
 life. At this, he contemptuously danc-

ed round the room, and hummed a tune like an opera dancer. Upon my saying he kept us at home, he replied, "Do I?—Then I'll take myself off, which is what you wish;—so good night, my dear Mrs. Baddeley!"—and to me, "good night, sweet nurse!" and off he went. When he was gone, I asked Mrs. Baddeley what he meant by saying, he and she was better acquainted than I supposed. She replied, he was a villain for that; she could explain it, but was too much ashamed of his behaviour to her to mention it. In short, I found what he said to be too true, and told her we must not suffer him to come any more to our house.

The

The next morning we went to a sale of pictures, at Christie's, in Pall-mall. The room was crowded with persons of distinction. Mr. Thomas Stanley joined us, and continued with us all the time we were there, and seeing Mrs. Baddeley admire a picture of a miser, he bought it, and made her a present of it. Sir Cecil Bishop, also observing her to notice two pictures of fruit, purchased them, and sent them home to her. On leaving the room, Mr. Stanley handed her to her carriage. On our return home, we found Admiral Spry, who came to dine with us uninvited. He acquainted us with an odd accident that happened in his way to our house. "Whenever
" I see any barbarity used to horses, I
" always

“ always make a point,” said he, “ of
“ putting a stop to it. As I came
“ through Bond-street, a dray-man was
“ beating his horses unmercifully, so
“ that the lookers on said, it was a
“ shame; this did not check him, but
“ he went to the fore-horse, and kick-
“ ed him, and beat him about the head
“ with all his strength. Three women
“ standing by me, I said, I would give
“ a guinea, if any one would take his
“ whip from him, and give it him well.
“ One of the women replied, ‘ Give
‘ us, your honour, but half the money,
‘ and we will warm him to your satis-
‘ faction.’ I promised them I would,
“ and one of the women went up to him,
“ snatched the whip from him, and whilst
“ the

“ the other two held him, laced him
“ so soundly on the legs, and back, till
“ he cried out for mercy. ‘ Mercy, you
“ dog!’ said she, ‘ Shew mercy to your
“ horses, and then you would not de-
“ serve such correction!’ In short, the
“ more he cried, the more she whip-
“ ped him, till I interfered, and said he
“ had had enough of it. The men who
“ stood by, took the part of the women,
“ and broke his whip to pieces. I gave
“ the women the guinea with pleasure;
“ for every person present seemed to en-
“ joy the man’s punishment; and I be-
“ lieve he will remember this day as
“ long as he lives.”

The

The Admiral told us he was going to the Mediterranean; said, he should be gone six weeks, and if we were disposed for a trip to sea in fine weather, he should be glad of our company. He left us, with saying, Mrs. Baddeley was an errant thief, and it was a sin in her to rob an old man of his *heart*, when he did not know how soon he might be attacked by the enemy, and should be in want of it. We went to the play; brought Lord Melbourne home with us, and when we reached Grafton-street, found the cook had fired the kitchen-chimney, and the house full of all sorts of rabble. They had extinguished the fire, but at our loss of a silver candlestick. And during this confusion,

Lord

Lord Lytelton, who was going by, got out of his carriage to offer his assistance, but Mrs. Baddeley was inattentive to all but her cats; and her favourite one having, I apprehended, run up a chimney; for it was so black, that she spoiled a beautiful white sattin petticoat she had on, by taking it in her lap.

Lord Melbourne, saying he should go into the country, for a week; we proposed to go down to my house near Henley; and Mrs. Baddeley wrote to Mr. Gill to meet her there. Mr. Stanley called the next morning, was warm in his addresses to her, and acted so ungentleman-like, that she reprimanded him in a manner that did her credit.

He begged her pardon, and they parted friends.

We were visited, at this time, by most of the foreign ministers; but, the Neapolitan ambassador, in 1773, was an eternal plague to us; he was ever at the door, and would take no denial, nor could we affront him, say what we would. At this gentleman we had many a laugh; for, when he was with us, at every rap at the door, he would have run into a dust-hole, rather than be seen. One day, having a mind to make ourselves merry at his expence, we ordered our servant to rap loud at the door, and say Lord March was come. The ambassador was for secreting himself,

ran

ran into the back parlour, and we put him into a closet, where we locked him in, and it was so small, that he could not turn himself within. In this situation we kept him half an hour; Baddeley and I laughing till our sides ached. When we thought we had confined him long enough; the outer door was shut to hard, as if his Lordship was gone, and we let his Excellency out, who said, he was happy to be hid in any place, but that the cupboard was so small, that he could not stir one way or the other. I asked him what reason he had for hiding himself at all; that we were not accustomed to such doings, nor should I have consented to it, but to see how far his alarm would carry

him. That no gentleman, who honoured Mrs. Baddeley with his visits, was ashamed to be seen with her. Indeed, they are happy to be with her, and would be much oftener than they are, if she was not denied to them. “If you will
“ give me leave, Sir,” said I, “to pass my
“ conjectures on your conduct, without
“ offence, I would tell you, Sir, that
“ either you live with some favourite
“ lady, whom you are fearful may hear
“ of your frequent visits here ; or, you
“ are like those, who might wish to be
“ shut up, that while such and such are
“ present, you was secreted, to lead
“ them to think you are indulged with
“ favours never bestowed ; but, that
“ this closet affair may lose it’s ef-
“ fect,

“fect, please to take notice, Sir, that
 “no one was here; that, as you wish-
 “ed to be hid, I did not oppose it for
 “the laugh’s sake; and as it was done
 “by your own request, you must par-
 “don the frolick.” “And so then,”
 replied he, “Mrs. Baddeley and you
 “have been diverting yourselves at my
 “expence? Well, I give you credit
 “for the thought, and depend on it,
 “one time or other, it shall not go un-
 “rewarded.—Why did not you keep
 “me there longer? I should not have
 “been angry, and believe me, what-
 “ever you may think, I am not the
 “man who would betray the confidence
 “a lady might repose in me.” In
 short, though I perceived him a little

hurt, he carried it off with great good humour, and politely took his leave. This was high glee to Mrs. Baddeley, who, for a long time after, would occasionally play the part of the Neapolitan ambaffador, and hide herself in the closet. We had scarce got out of this mirth, before Lord Melbourne came, to take his leave. We told him what had passed, and he laughed heartily, and when he went, said, “ Be sure, “ Steele, keep off all the d—ned dogs “ till my return, and put the ambaffador “ under lock and key.”

“ Now,” said Mrs. Baddeley, “ he “ is gone for eight days, and not a “ word about money : well, I must be “ contented

“ contented till I see his will, which I
 “ hope will not be long first. Next,
 “ for our journey to Henley, and a fight
 “ of Mr. Gill; though, between you
 “ and I, Steele, (laughing) I do not
 “ think so much of him as I did.” “ It
 “ is well,” replied I, “ that you do not,
 “ for you may yet be disappointed;
 “ and, as this is the case, we may as
 “ well defer our journey.” No,” re-
 turned she, “ not for worlds; I would
 “ not miss the opportunity of seeing the
 “ dear creature on any account, for
 “ have him I will, as soon as my debts
 “ are paid; and I will be candid, and
 “ tell him the true cause why it is so
 “ likely to be deferred.”

This

This night we were for the opera, but presently came a person, who asked to see Mrs. Baddeley, and whose name was Le Duc, and whom we recollected to be the King's Taylor, at Paris, of whom we purchased the trimmings. He had, he said, something of consequence to impart, and of course was admitted. He was dressed like a nobleman; and, on being requested to sit down, did not immediately seat himself, as an English taylor would have done, but politely declined, saying, the honour was too great for men in his situation to think of. She insisted on his sitting, and asked him, what fashions he had brought with him; he said, he had brought none with him, at present, but was going
back

back to Paris immediately, and should return in a fortnight, and bring plenty with him; but, that his business was now of another nature, which he hoped Mrs. Baddeley would pardon him, if it did not meet with her approbation.

“ This lady, I presume,” said he, addressing himself to Mrs. Baddeley, and alluding to me, “ is your friend ?”—On her saying, I was, and all he had to say, might be said before me, he continued, “ His Majesty of France, Ma-
 “ dam, has a great desire to see you ;
 “ and, I am commissioned, to propose
 “ your coming over to Paris, with the
 “ utmost expedition, where he will pro-
 “ vide for you for life, in a state be-
 “ coming a lady under his protection ;
 “ and,

“ and, if you think proper to comply
“ with this request of his, and agree to
“ set off for Paris in a day or two, I
“ have orders to let you have any sum
“ of money you want, and to deliver
“ you a letter. In this case, I can take
“ upon me to say, you will be a happy
“ lady; for he is a good king, and the
“ best of friends, where his fancy
“ leads.” Mrs. Baddeley, replied,
“ His Majesty of France might have
“ spared himself this trouble, and I can
“ give him my answer immediately, if
“ you are commissioned to carry it.”
He said he was. “ Then, please Sir,
“ make my respectful compliments to
“ his Majesty of France, and tell him,
“ I thank him for the honour of his in-
“ vitation,

“ vitation, but as I have seen enough
“ of his country, and am sufficiently
“ satisfied with my own, I shall not
“ think of leaving it.” On this, she
rose from her seat, and left him, with
“ Good morning to you, Mr. Le Duc—
“ When you come to England again, to
“ convince you I am not offended with
“ *you*, for acting in obedience to your
“ orders, if you bring with you any
“ fashions I may like, I will be a cus-
“ tomer.” He then said to me, “What
“ a pity it is that Mrs. Baddeley should
“ stand so much in her own light, and
“ be so blind to her interest;” for she
would be as great in Paris, as the
Queen herself, and hoped she would
alter her opinion; that he had unlimited
orders,

orders, to give her every thing she asked; that, he was unwilling to go back with such an answer, but that he was restricted to a day, and must return. When he was gone, she asked me what I thought of it; “Indeed,” returned I, “I know not what to think, I am so surprized.” “The duce take me,” said she, “if I would live in France to be Queen of it; I hate the French, and would rather be a menial servant in England, than the French King’s mistress. Let him go back, and tell his Royal Master what I said. But only think of it.—When we saw him dine in public, I observed that he looked much at me, but little supposed he noticed me so much as
“ to

“ to fend after me, and now it is full a
 “ year since! Well, I need not de-
 “ spair of friends I find, when I make
 “ them, go where I will!” She was
 not a little vain, however, of this invi-
 tation, and did not omit to tell it to all
 her acquaintance.

We went to the opera, and drank
 tea in our own box, when the late Lord
 Harrington came and begged a seat in
 one corner, to impart something to Mrs.
 Baddeley, of importance; this was to
 say how much he admired her, and how
 wretched he was, not to be noticed by
 her. Her reply was, that he certainly
 was a little out of his mind. He assur-
 ed her he was very much so. “ Then,”
 returned she, “ it is dangerous sitting so

“near you.” “No,” said he, “the
“nearer I sit to you, the sooner I shall
“be cured.” “Come then,” said Mrs.
Baddeley, “sit forward, close by me,
“and then your lady will see you, and
“when you go home, will give you
“a trimming, for you certainly deserve
“it.” It was with difficulty she could
get him away, and when he was gone,
we had all the foreign ministers, one
after the other, and many other noble-
men. When the opera was over, Mrs.
Baddeley was handed to her carriage by
the Duke of Manchester, and I, by Lord
Clanbrazil, who, whispered to me, that
he wished to see Mrs. Baddeley, to tell
her something of her Gaby. In our way
home, the coach ran foul of a broad-
wheeled

wheeled waggon with eight horses, and was overturned; but we received no hurt; only it occasioned a stoppage of carriages, and it being presently known whose carriage it was that was overset, it was not a little flattering, to find a crowd of nobility on foot, surrounding us, and kindly enquiring how we were. We were handed into the first coach that came up, by some gentlemen who politely set us down at home. Our carriage was much damaged; and our knocker went till near two in the morning, with enquiries respecting us.

Next morning we got into the phaeton, and set off for Henley; we stopped at Salt-hill, and saying to Mrs. Partridge,

at the Wind-mill, we should be back there the Saturday following, went on to my house near Henley, where Mr. Gill met us. He was elegantly dressed, and it did not escape Mrs. Baddeley's notice. Poor man, his joy was so great that he could neither eat nor drink. After dinner we walked into Kingwood, about three-quarters of a mile distant, to see the Gypsies, of which there were upwards of a hundred differently employed; some cooking, others washing, others at dinner, &c. They wished to tell our fortunes, but we declined; however, we gave them ten shillings among us, and got their blessing.

Mr.

Mr. Gill was very eager to know what steps Mrs. Baddeley had taken, respecting her divorce, and whether she had procured any advice; she told him every thing she had done, and the doubts Mr. Dunning had upon the occasion; "But," said she, "there is another bar, that was a divorce to take place immediately, would interrupt a marriage for the present." She was near three thousand pounds in debt, and till that was discharged, she would give her hand to no one; for the incumbrance of herself was quite sufficient, without adding to it that of her debts. He, with all the ardour of a lover, begged her not to think of her debts, for he would prefer a jail with her, rather than a

palace without her. “ This” continued he, “ shall not retard the business a day. “ Had I it in my power, I would discharge them instantly; but that will “ never be, whilst my father lives. “ However, when your creditors know “ it will be one day in my power to pay “ them, I should suppose they would “ wait that day with patience.” She thanked him, but said, by the time a divorce could take place, she should be able to pay them herself; he must therefore rest himself satisfied for the present. He seemed to acquiesce in all she said; but begged leave to extort from her a promise never to give her hand to any other person, but to marry him, as soon as she was at liberty. This she solemnly

ly promised, and he was as happy as he could be.

We stayed till the Saturday, and then set off for London; and, on calling at Salt-hill, we found Mr. Damer, whom Mrs. Partridge had acquainted of our designing to be there. With him we dined; but after dinner, Mrs. Baddeley being taken ill, with her old complaint, a sick head-ach, he politely offered her the use of his carriage; saying, he would ride in the phaeton. She told him the horses were rather ungovernable, and as no one could drive them so well as me, it would be better for him, and her to ride in the chaise, and Mrs. Steele might drive along side of it. This was settled, and

and thus we came to London. Mr. Damer so pleaded his cause with her, in this tête-a-tête, that she noticed him afterwards more than she had done before. On our return, we found letters from Lord Melbourne, and Lord Falmouth ; with a card from Baron Diede, to dine with him as that day ; and one from Mr. Stanley, inviting himself to tea. The Maid told us that among the numbers that had called, and left their names, was a Mr. Scott, a silk-mercator, for five hundred pounds, which Mrs. Baddeley owed him ; and which he was very angry about, and said he should call no more. Mrs. Baddeley said, she owed no such sum for silks, nor did she recollect the name of
Scott ;

Scott ; and seemed a little uneasy. The girl replied, she was certain she was right ; for that he talked with her a good while on the subject, and asked her, whether she did not think it wrong, that he should be obliged to come so often after his money. “ Why,” said Mrs. Baddeley, “ Did you ever see him before ?” “ O yes, ma’am,” returned the girl, “ I have seen the man often here, he came the day that Sally first came ; and if you remember took up the cat, and said he would burn it.” “ O Goodness,” said I, “ I now know who it is ; it is no other than Damer, in one of his funny moods.— Did he write his name on the slate ?” “ Yes,” replied the girl, and fetched it,

it, and as soon as we saw it, we knew his hand-writing. "I am glad" said Mrs. Baddeley, "it is no worse, for I began
" to be frightened."

We supped alone this evening, and Mrs. Baddeley, though she was relieved from the head-ach, was very low spirited; she cried and hung round my neck, and begged me to swear I would never part with her, if death did not oblige me. As I had given her no cause for this uneasiness, I wondered the more at it; and told her, I had no design to leave her. "If you do," said she, "I
" shall be lost for ever, and shall, like
" Jane Shore, come to your house and
" beg my bread of you." I intreated
her

her to tell me the occasion of this uneasiness; for that she distressed me exceedingly.—“ When you was from me
“ in the phaeton,” said she, “ I thought
“ my heart would have broke; I looked
“ at you often, and thought I was without
“ all I valued upon earth; and a
“ thousand foolish thoughts came into
“ my head; that some reasons might
“ in a little time take you from me;
“ and then I should be an out-cast, and
“ miserable.” I took this opportunity to reason with her, and assured her if she would be her own friend, and never give me cause, I never would leave her, whilst either she or I lived. That I had suffered, in my mind, a great deal on her account; but, that as I loved her

as my sister, I should never think of living from her, if her misconduct did not force me; for let her situation be what it would, nothing should drive me from her, but her imprudence. She thanked me a thousand times, and said, it should be the study of her life to please me, and to make me happy. This quieted her, and I persuaded her to go to bed.

The next morning she was in better spirits; and an anecdote or two, told her by her hair-dresser, made her laugh exceedingly. Among others, he told us that Mrs. Barry, of Drury-lane Theatre, was very ill; but that he had seen her three days before beat her hair-dresser,

dresser, kick him down stairs, and tumble him from the top to the bottom; and on being asked for what reason, replied, only for catching hold of her ear, in a hurry with the hot pinching irons; instead of her curl, and that the man avowed he'd dress her no more, for he was afraid of her. "Where did this happen?" said I. At the theatre, he replied, and as he was coming out of Mrs. Abington's room, he was an eye witness to it. But scandal is the life of the green-room, and this story, I have no doubt, was food to the dealers in it for a month. Before my hair was dressed, came old Lord Harrington, and as Mrs. Baddeley declared she would not see him, but in my company, I was forced to put on a morn-

ing cap, and go down with her. He told her, it was an age since he saw her at the Opera, and was happy he was not disappointed in having it in his power to offer her any service she might stand in need of. She thanked him, and said, at present she was not in need of any. He then proceeded to declare she was, in his opinion, the finest woman he ever beheld; wished his fortune would enable him to lay thousands at her feet; and, if she would permit him to pay his respects to her, once a week, she might command his purse; and, as a proof of his intentions, if she would accept of those three hundred pounds, (holding up bank-notes to the amount), it was much at her service.

“ My

“ My Lord,” returned she, “ I perfectly understand you; and the terms on which you offer your bounty, are such, that I can no way accept it; even if I wanted money, which in fact I do not; and I must beg the favour you will never offend my ears again, with a repetition of the same kind.”

He then began to explain away his words, by saying, he had advanced nothing that might give any lady offence. He only wished, by permission, to call on her once a week; it being his greatest delight to set with an agreeable woman like her; and hear her sing, and pass away a few hours in conversation; that he meant nothing indelicate; that he was not a boy, nor like the gay world

in dissipation; that he was fond of pleasing society; and was obliged to seek for that abroad, which he could not meet with at home; that he was far from knowing what domestic happiness was; and therefore, coveted the company of a female friend, where he found one to his liking: that his fortune was not a splendid one, but that nevertheless, he had it in his power to take care of any lady, who was not unwilling to repose a confidence in him; and, as these were his real sentiments, he did not see how they could give offence, his wish being only to visit her, on the score of friendship; and that on such days, as might be agreeable to herself; without interfering with any of her engagements.

ments. Mrs. Baddeley replied, that admitting his visits were meant only in the light he was pleased to represent them, her connexions were such, that his frequent visits, might give cause of uneasiness, where she should be unhappy to do it. However, he wished her to turn it in her mind, and give him an answer some few days after. She promised this, and he put up his bank-notes, saying, he would do himself the honour to wait on her again, in the course of a week, to know the result of her determinations. His chair was called, and he left us.

He was no sooner gone, than my servant brought in word, that a gentleman

wanted to see Mrs. Baddeley. “ Who
“ he is,” said the fellow, “ I don’t know,
“ for he would not give me his name.”
“ Go then, and tell him,” said I, “ that
“ unless he sends in his name, he can
“ see neither of us ; nor even then, un-
“ less he is known to us.” The ser-
vant delivered this message ; and, on the
person’s saying, he was not known to the
ladies by name ; nor could he tell his
business but to Mrs. Baddeley ; he told
him, he could not see her ; at this he
grew warm, and threatened to cane my
servant for his insolence. Words arose,
and John got him out, and shut the
door in his face.

The

The person went away, and soon after sent the following letter.

“Honoured Madam,
“I was sent by a gentleman of
“fortune, to tell you how much he
“loved you.—I am his head servant;
“and did not deserve the impudence
“your man did shew me. I wait there-
“fore for your speedy answer to this,
“that I may come and deliver my or-
“ders; and am, for my master,

“Your humble servant,
“Peter Fowler.

“*Feathers Tavern: near St. Dunstons Church*
“*Bond-street.*”

To Mrs. Baddeley.

To

To this letter, Mrs. Baddeley said, there was no other answer than to tell the man, who wrote it, that he was an impudent fellow. This was delivered, and we heard no more of him. In the interim came Mr. William Fawcner; but Mrs. Baddeley not seeming so happy to see him as she used, he enquired the cause of it, and hoped he had not given offence; saying, her coolness made him exceedingly unhappy. He took hold of her hand, but she withdrew it. At this he exclaimed, “ Good
“ God, my dear Mrs. Baddeley! What
“ have I done? How wretched you make
“ me!” She told him, she should always be happy to see him, as the rest of her friends, and would not have him think
more

more of her than as an acquaintance; she had well considered the consequence of her own conduct, saw it was highly improper, and therefore determined, in future, to have no further intercourse with him, than as a friend; in which light she should ever consider him, and value him. He endeavoured to expostulate; but she would not hear. He told her, let her determinations be what they would, she would ever be dear to his remembrance; but, that it would lay him under the necessity of discontinuing his visits, as he could never bear up under the mortification the sight of her would occasion: for, it would renew the recollection of his past happiness; and, that recollection would make him wretched.

wretched. He could only, therefore, with heart-felt sorrow, at his dismissal, return her ten thousand thanks, for the indulgences she had bestowed upon him. In short, as he had not power to say more, she must pardon his leaving her. With this he bowed, and went out of the house in a minute.

“ Well now, my dear Steele,” said she, “ you see I can keep my resolution. “ I did this, and will do more to convince you, how much I value you “ and your advice. Did not this come “ on you unexpectedly? Could you “ suppose I could do this to a man “ whom I own I loved; and to whom “ I was so attached, that I would have
“ taken

“ taken him for life ? Many an hour
 “ have I been happy in his company,
 “ and the more so, as it was unknown
 “ to you. But that’s now over, as
 “ shall more of my imprudence shortly
 “ be.” I was happy at this, and told
 her, it was in her own power yet, to
 be one of the most comfortable wo-
 men upon earth. “ I believe so,”
 returned she, “ and I am resolved I’ll
 “ try for it.” I said, she might still
 have an engagement at Drury-lane.
 “ No,” replied she, “ I will never have
 “ any thing more to do with the stage,
 “ for it has been my destruction.” Dur-
 ing this conversation, came Count Haf-
 lang ; we enquired kindly how he did,
 and Mrs. Baddeley expressed much un-
 happiness

happiness at the accident, that so long confined him. He begged no apology might be made, saying, the fault was his own; he had suffered a good deal, but was now pretty well recovered, and the sight of her so enlivened him, that he felt not the least pain any where, but in his heart. Mrs. Baddeley told him, he could not possibly feel any there; for he must certainly long since have bestowed it on some worthy object. On the contrary, he assured her it was undisposed of, till he saw her; and, that he must finally confess, he was so impressed with her beauty, that he could have no rest. "You are then," returned she, "just as I am, for I have
"but little rest myself." Is there then,"

said

said he, "some sprightly rival in my
 "way?" "Many," replied she, "but
 "men, now, are the least of my thoughts;
 "and, I intend to put up a paper at
 "my door, to acquaint all my friends,
 "that do me the honour to call on me,
 "that a prohibition is laid in the house
 "on the name of Love, or any thing
 "bordering on it." For she was not
 without the man of her heart, and to
 him alone all her favours were due.
 The old gentleman, still went on, that
 it might be presumption in him, at his
 time of life, to think of so beautiful a
 creature; but, that he was not without
 his feelings. She endeavoured to turn
 the conversation, by asking what news
 abroad? "None," said he, "of con-
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“sequence, but, that the men are
“all mad, like myself.” “If that be the
case,” she replied, “I’ll see none of
“them ; it is dangerous to be with
“them ; and so, as I am going out, and
“must dress, I will wish you good
“morning.” With this she left him ;
and, as I pleaded the same excuse, he
soon went away, saying, he should not
give up his wishes, whatever might be
his disappointments.—Count Haslang,
was upwards of seventy years of age ;
and, to hear such an old fool talk of
love, was surfeiting. But the men, I
find are all alike, young and old, and
will pursue their inclinations, however
ridiculous it may appear ; and, to their
illicit amours they will sacrifice the
name

name of love, and talk of affection, when they have not the least spark of it. Mrs. Baddeley, I will admit, was not blind to the follies of many, that paid court to her; and if, at times, she gave way to imprudence, the good-natured reader will, I trust, make some little allowance, when he has been told of her youth, her beauty, and personal accomplishments; and the great admiration she always had; enough, as I have before observed, to make any woman vain, of ten times the understanding, especially in an age of dissipation, when reserves are too much laid aside. It is an easy thing, for a woman to sit down and censure the conduct of Mrs. Baddeley; but, I will venture to say, not

one in ten, in her situation, could have withstood the temptations she met with. I do not advance this as an excuse for her errors; but, I would have my female readers to consider the many attractions she withstood, and the many temptations she avoided; how much her vanity was swelled, and her ambition heightened, by the homage and adoration paid her; and then condemn her, if they please. She was made like other mortals, of human materials; and, if she fell a sacrifice to vanity, let it be kindly attributed to the frailty of her sex. Many were the applications to Mrs. Baddeley for her favours, even from men in second life, who made her offers that would have tended to the ruin of themselves

themselves and families, but she listened to none of them; and, was I to relate the whole, it would fill a dozen volumes, and answer no purpose, but to make families unhappy. I have not mentioned any, but those who are generally known, nor do I mean it; such will pass unobserved, and unnoticed, nor shall my pen disturb their peaceful moments. I will advert then to Lord Falmouth, who came to try the effect of gold, and see whether it had more influence than persuasion. Mrs. Baddeley admitted him, and a repetition of his former declarations took place, which she told him, as she had done before, were disagreeable to her. He then took out of his coat pocket a large purse,

full of gold; said, it contained five hundred guineas, and was at her service; and more if she would accept it; that, he presented her that trifle to purchase something for his sake; and which, to my great surprize, and the first time I ever saw her accept a favour from a person to whom she had not bestowed a one; I say, to my great surprize, she took up the purse, put it into her pocket, thanked him, and said, she should not fail to lay out the contents as he desired. His Lordship told her, she was welcome to it, and as much more, if she would do him the favour to accept it. “No, my Lord,” returned she, “the
 “present you have made me, is more
 “than I expected, nor would I have
 “taken.

“ taken it, but with an intent to purchase something in memory of so good a friend.” “ You must not,” said he, “ call me by that cool name; for I absolutely love you.” She hoped he did, and wished all the world would, as she would never do any thing to incur their hatred. She was in high spirits, and he begged her to be a little serious; but she told him, it was one of her mirthful days, and her friends would be happy to find it, for she was going out to dinner. On this he took his leave, begging she would fix a day when he might have the honour of calling on her again. Mrs. Baddeley said, whenever it was agreeable to him. He then bowed and left her.

She

She was quite overjoyed with this five hundred guineas, and said, “ This time
“ I think I have acted right; for I am
“ so tormented with these old gentle-
“ men, that I am determined to take
“ all they will give me, by way of re-
“ compence, but never meet their
“ wishes otherwise than by thanking
“ them. Here, take the purse, Steele,
“ and pay away the contents to whom
“ you please, or keep it in part of what
“ I owe *you*.” I told her, my account
with her should be the last thought of;
and that we would consider the best use
to apply it to. “ To prevent being
“ troubled with Lord Falmouth’s visits
“ in future,” said Mrs. Baddeley, “ I will
“ give orders to be denied; nor will I
“ see

“ see old Count Haflang, for I hate
 “ him monstrously; he always looks as
 “ if he had a stake run down his back.”
 The servant had his orders; for, since
 dining out was an excuse, we meant to
 spend the day alone. Lord Winchelsea
 and Mr. Storer called, and we were
 denied to both; but, in the evening,
 we saw a Mr. P. who tendered us his
 services, said, he had a quantity of
 French wines, very fine and good, which
 he had run, and could afford to sell at
 half the price we paid for them at pre-
 sent. He was clever and sensible, and
 seemed not only the man of business,
 but the gentleman. This man was a
 surveyor as well as a merchant, and em-
 ployed a relation of mine, who was
 under

under many obligations to him. Mrs. Baddeley told him, she would be a customer to him, gave him an order, and told him to fend in such as he could recommend; for, as some of the nobility did her the honour occasionally to dine with her, it might be a recommendation to him. I do not conceal this person's name from motives of delicacy, but from policy, as he will appear in a very different light hereafter; he was a man little known to the world, and as such, his name is of little consequence.

A man, whom we had employed to build a wash-house for us, having charged us forty-eight pounds, when he
agreed

agreed to do the job for twenty pounds, we told Mr. P. of it. He said, those kind of people generally imposed upon ladies; but, if we would give him the bill, and authorise him to settle it, we should have justice done us; “And, as I do not want for money,” continued he, “and have some at your command to pay this man, or twenty such, I will do it with pleasure.” We thanked him, and he staid tea and supper. Mrs. Baddeley, whose great fault was that of being too communicative, made this man acquainted with her situation as to debts, and he very officiously told her, in a friendly way, that he had some thousands in his banker’s hands, and he would settle the whole,

whole, and she might repay him in such sums as she could conveniently spare ; for he should be happy to be of service to us. Mrs. Baddeley then desired me to show Mr. P. the list of what she owed ; I did, and his answer was, “ I beg you will not think of paying one shilling of these debts yourself, but refer them to me, and I will settle with them all.” She told him, she was obliged to him ; and, as a proof how much she wished to convince him, that she would let him have the money as fast as she could spare it, she begged of me to give him the five hundred guineas in the house. He declined taking it, but she insisted so much on it, that he could not refuse it. He then
took

took out his pocket-book, and gave her some cheques of Mr. Coutts, the banker, and bad her draw, when she wanted cash, and he would take care she should be supplied; and, the next day, he would set about settling her affairs, and he hoped to her satisfaction; as he thought he should be able to save her many pounds, and not lessen us in their opinion, but keep us our consequence. I was not a little pleased with this, as tradesmen are apt to take advantages of women, be they ever so clever, or ever so much upon their guard. This was ever my opinion, and I am still more confirmed in it, since I have read a work, put into my hands, which I had occasional recourse to, by

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way of relief, whilst I was writing these memoirs ; and, in justice to the merits of that work, I will own, that had it been published years ago, and fallen into my hands, it would have saved me hundreds of pounds. The reader, perhaps, will not be displeased with me, if I tell him the name of this book. It is called *Modern Times* ; or, the *Adventures of Gabriel Outcast*, and is a novel in three volumes, written in imitation of Gil Blas. As the title announces, that it has been considerably improved, and enlarged, since it was first published, it may not be unnecessary to say, that what I read was it's third edition, and laughed through it, from one end to the other. The author, whoever he is, must
be

be a man of infinite humour and ingenuity, and have a thorough knowledge of life; as, under a well-told train of adventures, he sets before his readers the arts, deceptions, and villainies of the world, in all professions; and thus instructs, whilst he entertains; and a perusal of it will be useful to hundreds, who may never through life, see, or know, half they will learn in these volumes. But to return.

Putting a mark on those bills, which I wished should be first paid, I gave Mr. P. the list of her debts, and also the bills for repairing and improving Hammer-smith house, which he said was a great imposition, and he would see us

righted. Mrs. Baddeley and I, gave Mr. P. full power to act for us; and he, the next day, paid more than the five hundred guineas he received, for he brought receipts to the amount of six hundred and sixty pounds; and made the man, who charged forty-eight pounds, take thirty pounds, and brought us his receipt in full. This gave us great pleasure, as the man told me, he would not abate a single shilling of his demand.

Mr. P. was now much in our esteem; for he seemed highly to deserve it, and frequently sent us valuable little presents; and, once a day, called regularly to see what we wanted, and how he could serve us. All we drew on Mr.

Couts

Couts for, was punctually paid, though we did not draw for much. Mrs. Baddeley made him a confidant in all her affairs; told him that she was obliged to Lord Melbourne for what she had, and enumerated what he had done for her, and what expectations she had from him, and how much she was in my debt. In short, as she kept no secret from him, he had reason to believe he should be repaid all he advanced, and being of a friendly turn, was as happy, in appearance, in doing us this kindness, as we could be to receive it. We will now leave him, for the present; what I have said being necessary for the illucidation of what happened afterwards.

Going through Hyde-park, in our way to Hammer-smith, we met with Mr. Stanley, who, saying he had lamed his horse, and sent him home by his servant, and wished we would give him a cast to Kensington, we took him into the coach; when he said a thousand civil things to Mrs. Baddeley, and fell on his knees to her, as men will do, to obtain what they want. She told him, that conduct might have it's effect with girls under twenty, but not with her; and begged him to rise, and not tease her in a manner so disagreeable to her; but, nothing could prevent him, and he continued his nonsense till we reached Kensington gate, where we sat him down.

On

On our arrival, at our house at Hammer-smith, we were told, a man had called to speak with Mrs. Baddeley; that his name was Freelove, and his business information for her good; that, he lived at Chiswick, and if she wished to see him, he would wait on her on being sent for. This odd message excited our curiosity, and we sent for him. When he came, he begged the door might be shut, as his business was not to be known by servants. The door being shut, he told Mrs. Baddeley, that he had a brother, who lived in Berkeley-street, Piccadilly, and, who kept a house there for the reception of the nobility; and, who had been after her many times, at the desire of a noble duke,

duke, who had offers to make her, which he presumed she would not refuse; "But, madam," said he, "as I am unacquainted with such business, I must leave it to you to act as you please. This is my information, and if you wish to have it, I can tell you the duke's name." "No," said Mrs. Baddeley, "I do not wish to hear it." "O, pray let us have his name;" said I. "Who is the duke?" "No less a man," replied he, "than the Duke of Devonshire." "Now," said Mrs. Baddeley, "I am acquainted with the business; I wish you had kept your information to yourself, for I shall neither see your brother, nor his Grace." The man replied, he did this.

this to serve her, and since he found it had offended her, he should be off; accordingly he tripped away without further ceremony, or even shutting the door after him.

Mrs. Baddeley was so displeased, at the manner in which his Grace sent to her, and the person he employed in the business, that she was half-inclined to write to him and affront him; but, as I told her he was a foolish young man, and the best way would be to take no notice of it, she gave it up, with saying, she would only give him some of her contemptuous looks when next she met him in public. Mrs. Baddeley was possessed of a handsome pair of pistols, these

these were at HammerSmith, and she proposed taking them home as a present to Mr. P. and asked her servant if they were charged, he told her not; and, in our way home, she having one, and I the other, began to trifle with each other; she said, she would shoot me; and I told her I would do the same, and we presented the pistols at each other, and should probably have done one another a mischief, if an accident had not prevented it. Turning out of the great road, in order to pay my sister a visit, who lived in the King's Road, Chelsea; three ill-looking fellows came up, and two of them ordered the coachman to stop; I put out the pistol, and told one of the men, if he came near the coach,

coach,

coach, he was a dead man; and, putting my finger accidentally to the trigger, the pistol went off, and frightened the horses so much, that they galloped away, and it was some time before the coachman could stop them. It saved us from being robbed, but frightened me and Mrs. Baddeley so much, that we were not ourselves for some time; and the more so, when we recollected, we had presented them at each other, and it was a providence they did not go off then; for, had I pulled the trigger then, I should certainly have killed her, and, had I done it, I never could have survived her. It has been a warning to me, and ever will, not to handle fire-arms again.

We

We stopped at my sister's; she said Lord Grosvenor had called on her the day before, and kindly asked after us; said, he had been to the school where his children were at, and gave orders that Lady Grosvenor might not see them. This she said was an act of cruelty in him, as the children were her's; and, that having given these orders before, Lady Grosvenor, with all the affection of a parent, had dressed herself like a servant, and absolutely hired herself in that capacity, to the mistress of the school, in order to get a sight of them. She said, she did not know the truth of this, but, that it was the common report of that neighbourhood. Lord Grosvenor, the next morning,

ing, called on us, but did not see Mrs. Baddeley ; he honestly confessed to me, that he thought her a fine woman, but did not see that beauty in her, wherein others thought so much of. His visits at our house were but few, but, they were friendly. It was from him we had always tickets for the masked balls, and Mrs. Baddeley never thought of applying any where else.

As Mr. P. will cut no small figure in this work, I must not omit to make my readers acquainted with his merits, as I go on. He called himself Mrs. Baddeley's agent ; looked over the bills for repairing HammerSmith house, being a surveyor by profession, curtailed them

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all, and settled them, as he did every other debt she owed ; by paying some in full, others in part; and, giving others his notes, payable at a distant time, for his paper would pass like bank-notes. By this kindness, I was much relieved from a heavy charge ; and, though I was as keen as I could be, I found by Mr. P. that I was not adequate to the task I undertook ; for he made them make considerable abatements in all their bills ; so that for a length of time after this, I never paid five pounds, but referred them all to him. He kept a regular book, and produced proper vouchers, for all he paid and received ; and, frequently offered to pay her bills, when he had not cash of her's. Thus was
he

he a useful friend, and saved her many pounds; I may say hundreds. I had now some little money by me, and his hinting one day, that he had a draft payable the next, and was not quite prepared for it, I told him, I had four hundred pounds of my own money, then in the house, and the loan of it was much at his service; at least, he might take it as money of Mrs. Baddeley's, and apply it for her use, as he thought proper. He thanked me, took it, and gave me his receipt for the same.

At a masked ball, at Mrs. Cornelly's, in Soho-square, for which Lord Grosvenor sent us tickets; and, whilst he was with us, unmasked; a well-dressed cham-

ber-maid, with a broom and dust-shovel, in true character, came up often, and swept round us; she struck Lord Grosvenor so much, that he was desirous of finding out who she was; having told him, in a tone of voice not her own, that he knew her; he followed her about, but could not learn who she was. When he returned to us, she came up again, begged pardon for being so troublesome; but, seeing so much dirt about us, her lady would discharge her, if she did not clear it away. "Well, young woman," said his Lordship, "shall I have a few minutes chat with you?"—"Yes, Sir," she replied, "if you please."—Off went Lord Grosvenor again, with this mask, to find out, if possible, who she

she

she was ; he staid the best part of an hour with her, and returned, saying, he could not for his life find her out ; but, he was certain, she was some woman of fashion, for she knew a good deal of him. Mrs. Baddeley advised him to go again to her. Away he went, and a gentleman, whom we found afterwards to be Lord Pembroke, presently came and told us, that Lord Grosvenor was tête-a-tête with his own wife, and did not know it ; for, that the chambermaid was no other than Lady Grosvenor. This was buzzed round the room, and his Lordship was pointed at by a number of his friends. Mr. Damer, said, it was a pity, and he would go and tell him ; as the eye of every one

was upon him. He went up to him, and whispered him in his ear, that he was talking to his Lady; his Lordship having sat down by her, and being then in warm conversation with her. Informed of this, he jumped up instantly, and came to us in great agitation, saying, he would rather have given a thousand guineas, than such a thing should have happened; but, that she disguised her voice so much, and played her part so well, that he had not the least conception who she was. We took the opportunity to beg he would be reconciled to her; for, that many ladies had been guilty of more imprudence than her, and, yet it had been over-looked. His Lordship swore he never would.

Lady

Lady Grosvenor did not give up her pursuit of him; for she followed him all the night, and often said to me, “ Pray persuade that gentleman to look
“ on me ; I wish him to be friends with
“ me ;” but he did all in his power to avoid her ; and, finding he could not, begged of us to go home sooner than we intended ; for his Lordship was in our party. Lady Grosvenor followed us out of the house, and said to me, in my ear, “ I wish I was in your place ;” I replied, I wished she was ; then, taking me by the hand, she said, “ God
“ bless you ;” and continued with us, till we were all in the carriage. True, said I to myself, as soon as we parted ; poor creature, I wish with all my heart
she

she had been with us, and partook of some of his Lordship's smiles; and happy should I have been, had I been able to prevail in her favour; but his anger and resentment was such, that he would not hear a word we had to say.

A Captain Crawford, of the Guards, an intimate friend of Captain Fawkner, and a polite handsome young man, whom indeed we had seen before; came to pay Mrs. Baddeley a visit, having heard, I presume, of what had passed between her and Captain Fawkner. Though, when I say *handsome*, I do not mean to say that Mrs. Baddeley never bestowed her attention or favours voluntarily, but to handsome men. The pleasure
she

she took in the company of Mr. Fitzpatrick, Mr. Hare, and Lord George Gordon, is a proof to the contrary; for to these gentlemen, she was particularly civil, and when they omitted to call upon her for some time, has taken pains to see them; by going to public places on purpose. Captain Crawford asked her when she had seen Captain Fawkner, but said no more respecting him, his business being to introduce himself to her favour; and he used all the language, and those fond arguments which men, in love use to captivate their mistresses. She sat silent till he had done, and then, thus addressed him. “ I presume, sir, you have been instructed by
 “ your friend, how to proceed with me;
 “ for

“ for the language you have adopted,
“ as that of Captain Fawkner’s, and
“ calls for the same answer.” “ Far be
“ it from me, madam,” replied he, “ to
“ use any man’s language but my own.
“ I have not lived till this time, to need
“ instructions to convey my real senti-
“ ments. The heart naturally speaks
“ for itself.—Till now I have been con-
“ tented in my situation; but, since I
“ have beheld your lovely person, and
“ your charms, I have wished myself a
“ monarch for your sake.” “ And,
“ I doubt not,” said Mrs. Baddeley,
laughing, “ for your own.” He told
her it was no laughing matter, for his
feelings would not admit of trifling.
“ Certainly not,” said she, “ I do not
“ mean

“ mean to trifle with them, but to tell
 “ you seriously what I think. I have
 “ let you run on,” (for he had said a
 thousand fulsome things to her, before
 she interrupted him,) “ to see how far
 “ your folly would carry you. Can you
 “ suppose, sir, that I will attend to an
 “ idle tale which you tell to every wo-
 “ man you meet? And do you think me
 “ fool enough to give my company to
 “ every one who may please to compli-
 “ ment me as *you* have done? If you
 “ think so, you think wrong. As Mr.
 “ Fawkner’s friend, I shall be glad to
 “ see you at any time; but, to talk to
 “ me in the manner you have now, I
 “ shall ever consider as impertinent.
 “ Talk not therefore of trifling; I give
 “ you

“ you my honour, you never shall be
“ trifled with by me ; for, I will always
“ speak my mind to you, as I have at
“ present.” He seemed much hurt, and
asked her, if she took a pleasure in ridic-
culing her admirers ? “ Yes,” she re-
plied, “ when my admirers act with im-
“ propriety, as you have done ; for
“ though I acknowledge my impru-
“ dence, in some respects ; I have always
“ conducted myself so, in the company
“ of those with whom I am acquainted,
“ as not to warrant such unbecoming be-
“ haviour from any gentleman. I am
“ like many others of my sex, not without
“ my attachment, and where my faith
“ is pledged ; and therefore I expect,
“ after this candid declaration, that you
“ will

“ will never trouble me on this head
“ again.” He begged her pardon, for any thing that might escape him, to give offence; yet, let her be as angry as she would, he must and would love her through life; but, if possible, he would obey her commands; and not offend again in the same way, though the task would be difficult. He hoped therefore, she would class him among her friends, and permit him occasionally to pay his respects to her. She replied, she should be happy to see him, as she did her other friends, when they were pleased to honour her with their occasional visits.

When Captain Crawford left her, she told me, she was certain Mr. Fawkner had set him on, to see if he could prevail with her, to listen to entreaties of a similar nature with his own; so that he might report the reception he met with, which she supposed he was gone to do. “I begin now,” added she, “to be
“forry for what I said to, and promised,
“Mr. Gill; for such is my disposition,
“that, like a child, I am fond of new
“faces, and soon tired of them. The
“young gentleman, I believe, loves me
“to adoration, but I will not be his
“wife notwithstanding; nor will I be
“the wife of any man; for I can never
“submit to the controul of a husband,
“or put it in his power to say I have
“been

“ been imprudent in life. I value and
 “ esteem Mr. Gill; but I am resolved
 “ not to marry him. I know, my dear
 “ Steele, you will call me whimsical and
 “ capricious; I own I am so, and would
 “ have married him, when first I saw
 “ him, had I been at liberty: but my
 “ mind is now totally altered, and I
 “ shall think no more of it. You see
 “ what a changeling I am.” “ Yes,”
 returned I, “ I see it well enough, and
 “ knew it would come to this; how-
 “ ever, I am not sorry for it. It may
 “ be a wise determination, and the bet-
 “ ter, as it takes place without my ad-
 “ vice.” “ If,” replied she, “ I could
 “ give my hand for life to any man, I
 “ would to him; for I love and esteem

“ him more than any man on earth ; I
“ shall therefore break with him by de-
“ grees, as I would not hurt him.”

Lord Melbourne came this evening, and whilst he was with us, came Sir Francis Molineux, Usher of the Black Rod, who sat an hour with me, and was sorry he found Mrs. Baddeley engaged. This gentleman had no sooner left us, than the house was disturbed, by a noise below, among the servants. One of the maids, having opened the two pair of stairs window, and threw out one of the cats, whom she found lying upon her cap, the footman, knowing how fond his mistress was of cats, quarrelled with her, and put her all along upon the
kitchen

kitchen fire. The girl was not much hurt, except burning of her cloaths, but she was frightened into such strong fits, that it required three to hold her; and I was obliged to send for the apothecary, to get her out of them. It was at last effected, but they returned, and continued with her near three hours. Had Mrs. Baddeley known it, she would have discharged the maid; but, as I thought the man was equally, if not more cruel, I advised them to be friends, and the quarrel was made up. His Lordship staid till one in the morning, and then went away.

When he was gone, Mrs. Baddeley told me, she had such things to acquaint

me with, as would surprise me; that his Lordship had said, he had laid out such large sums of money, upon his house and other things, that he found himself pinched; for though his fortune was large, his ready money was nearly exhausted; of course, he should not be able to advance her money, to discharge her debts for some little time; but, that he would take particular care, she should have plenty for her immediate occasions; and that shortly, he would not only pay all she owed, but would discharge her debt to me too. I asked her why she had not told him of Mr. P; she replied, she had, and that his Lordship was well pleased with it; and said, it happened fortunately, as it would
keep

keep things to rights, till such time as he could do as he wished; and said, the next time he came, he would bring her some money. She said, his Lordship told her, that since he came of age, he had expended upwards of two hundred thousand pounds in neat cash.

I replied, "Then you must be frugal, and live within bounds, and all will be well; for, I suppose his Lordship will take care, in a little time, to disincumber you." She said, she had no doubt of it, and would follow my advice.

There was scarce a day passed, but something new occurred. This morning

ing came three men to the door, that played on different instruments. One of them was a young man, about twenty years of age, who sung sweetly. Mrs. Baddeley was so struck with his figure, his voice, and manner, that she ordered them into the house, and bad her servants give them something to eat; they were taken into the back-parlour, and fed; and afterwards Mrs. Baddeley went to them, and they continued playing and singing three hours; and every song the young man sung, drew from her fresh applause. When she meant to dismiss them, she asked me what she should give them; I told her three shillings would be enough, but if she thought not, she might give them five. She said

said, five shillings, in her opinion, would not satisfy them; but, as I had no more silver, she took it, and gave it to the young man, who bowed gracefully, and said he was much obliged to her. As they were going away, the young man stopped to let his comrades go on, and when they were gone, he returned into the room, begged Mrs. Baddeley's pardon for the liberty; but said, the men were already paid, and as he was sufficiently rewarded by the honour of singing to her, he begged leave to return the five shillings she kindly gave him. Mrs. Baddeley refused to take it back, and he then gave it to her servant. We looked at the young man, with amazement, and did not know what to make
of

of him; he seemed to have the manner of a gentleman; and, on leaving her, begged her permission to come again; she took his address, and, said he might depend on her sending for him, at some other time, but not on the same terms; for, unless he would permit her to pay him, she would not think of it: he bowed and went. Mrs. Baddeley was of opinion, he had been well educated, and being reduced, hired these men to go about with him; and, that he gave John the money, not thinking himself sufficiently paid for the time he was detained. John, our servant, said he was no street-finger; for, whilst he was at breakfast, he tied up his stockings, and he observed that he had fine silk garters, and
white

white silk stockings, under his worsted ones; and, he was sure it was some frolick. I asked him why he did not mention this to us before; his answer was, he did not think of it. “ Besides, madam,” added John, “ under his old waist-coat, he had a fine shirt, and ’twas as white as snow.” These circumstances led us to send where he gave us the direction, in order to learn who he was; but, we were disappointed, for no such person lived in that place, nor did they ever hear of such a one. This confirmed John’s suppositions, and we never heard any thing of him, till we went to a masked ball, at the Pantheon, some time after; where we found him in nearly the same dress he had on at
our

our house, and with the same instruments, on which he played; and sung many of the same songs we heard before. We took all the pains we could to find him out, but was not able, nor did we ever.

No sooner were these men gone, on the day I mentioned, but we had a morning visit from the Duke of Manchester, whom Mrs. Baddeley received; he called with a trifling favour which she asked him for, and staid but a short time. As the door was opened for the Duke of Manchester, Mr. John Hanger entered it, without ceremony, and came into the parlour where we were sitting; he said, he just run in, to ask
Mrs.

Mrs. Baddeley how she did, and seated himself by her ; and, on her making no answer, he enquired the reason. She looked angry at him, and said, she did not approve of such liberties, entering the house in the manner he did. "There was a time," replied he, "when I might do this without offence."—"Yes," returned she, "and pretty returns you made me."—"My dear Baddeley," cried he, "upbraid me no more with my misconduct ;—I cannot live, unless you love me."—"Love you ?" returned she, "I once loved you, 'tis true, and to my sorrow ; but I never will be that fool again."—"How shall I make you amends," said he, "for what is past ?"

“ Will you do it,” replied she, “ if I
“ tell you ?” “ I will,” said he, “ if
“ it is in my power.”—“ Then, take
“ notice,” retorted she, rising from her
seat, with her heart full of resentment—
yet feeling a little of her old affection,
she paused, and said, “ I have a favour
“ to beg of you, which, by granting,
“ you will confer on me a lasting obli-
“ gation.” Be what it would, he assur-
ed her, he would grant it. “ How-
“ ever hard then my conditions may be
“ deemed,” returned she, “ they are,
“ that you will never come into any
“ house where I am, take notice of
“ me in public, or even write to me
“ again ; I am now happily situated,
“ and have resolved never to receive
“ more

“ more of your visits.” “ This sen-
 “ tence,” said Mr. Hanger, “ my dear
 “ Baddeley, is so severe, that I cannot
 “ comply with it. I will give up my
 “ life first; and, as to Lord Mel-
 “ bourne, d—m him, he had better
 “ mind his wife at home, than put him-
 “ self in the way of my happiness; and,
 “ I am determined, one day or other,
 “ to make him answer to me for it.”—
 “ Don’t talk so idly, young man,” said
 Mrs. Baddeley, “ you know not who is
 “ the cause of it; therefore, stifle your
 “ resentment, till you meet with the
 “ right person.” “ I would to God,”
 said Mr. Hanger, “ I knew who it was.
 “ Lord Melbourne I know is a con-
 “ stant visitor at this house.”—I could

not hold my temper, or tongue any longer, and said, "What is it to you, Sir, who visits us? *Your* visits, I must tell you again, are exceedingly disagreeable; and, I must request you will come here no more." "It signifies little, Madam," said he to me, "what *you* say; for let Mrs. Baddeley be where she will; I must, and will see her, as I have often said, even at the risk of my life." "Pray, Sir," said Mrs. Baddeley, taking up the cause again, "let me have no rudeness to Mrs. Steele. She is the best friend I have, and affronting her, is affronting me. She has my interest too much at heart to see me the dupe of any man. I have had time for reflection,

" reflection,

“ flection, and your past conduct makes
 “ me shudder. Have you not often
 “ beat me in my bed, till my shoulders
 “ and arms have been black for a
 “ month? And did your cruelty end
 “ here? No; when I took the liberty
 “ to give you some advice, which you
 “ then stood much in need of; did you
 “ not——But I will not repeat it.—
 “ The more I think of it, the more I
 “ despise you!”—

This charge of her's I knew to be a
 fact; he has often beat her in such a
 manner, that I have seen his cruel
 marks, and have wept over them.—
 Many of her friends, now living, will
 testify the same; and, I would have

horse-whipped him for it, if she had not prevented me. He heard her out with patience; and, then told her, he acknowledged his ill behaviour; and was ready to atone for all his past faults, and, therefore, ought to be forgiven; that she was still dear to him; that, life without her, would be a burthen, and, that he should go distracted. I gave her a wink to go out of the room, which she did, saying, she must go and dress, being engaged to go out, "So, good morning to you."—She left him; he tried to bring her back, with all the endearing words he was master of, but, to no purpose; he then bit his nails, and walked about the room like one crazed: he would have talked, but, I
leaving

leaving him with the same pretence, he thought proper to leave the house ; saying, as he went, he should be with us again the next day. I went up to her, and found her in great agitation, crying out, she was miserable, and apprehensive, from his revengeful looks, that he would do her a mischief. She wished earnestly, that she had never seen him, for, that her health was not what it was before she swallowed the poison ; and, that the fear of him disturbed her daily. She gave all her servants orders never to admit him, saying, she would discharge the first who did ; and, they all promising to obey her directions, she grew more easy.

When

When Lord Melbourne came, which he did that evening, at eleven, saying, he had been at the play with his dear Betsey; (for he has often declared he scarce knew which he loved the best, his wife, or Mrs. Baddeley) I say, when his Lordship came, she told him, Mr. Hanger had been with her, and how she had treated him; for, she thought it best to mention it herself, lest he should hear it from some other quarter, and be displeased. Lord Melbourne acknowledged himself much obliged to her for this information, which put him at his ease; for, he assured her, Mr. Hanger had, one day at Almack's, told Lord Stanley, now Earl of Derby, in his hearing, that Mrs. Baddeley was as hand-

handsome as an angel; that, he had been at romps with her all the morning, and he was as happy as a prince. And when Mrs. Baddeley told him the orders she had given, not to admit him again, he gave her twenty kisses, and blessed her sweet face. He brought her no money, however, but said he would the next day.

She observed to me, when Lord Melbourne was gone, that Hanger had said this in his Lordship's hearing, to create uneasiness and words between him and her, and called him a villain for so doing; and, told me, she never should forget his wicked intentions. Dr. Arne now came in to give her a lesson, and he

was

was followed soon after by Mr. Damer, who was so pleased with Mrs. Baddeley's performances, that he thought proper to reward her master, by a handful of gold. Both he and Doctor Arne supped with us; and, the doctor liking the wine, Mrs. Baddeley ordered the seat of his carriage to be filled with it, unknown to him. Mr. Damer entertained us with the conversation he had with our maid, when we were in the country, under the name of Scott, the mercer; he told her, he had been a hundred times after his money, and pretended to be d—n'd angry; the girl begged his pardon for disbelieving him, and said, that her mistress never suffered a person to call twice, if she knew it; that,

that she had lived with her two years, and never heard such a thing of her before. She said, if he called when the ladies were at home, he would have his money, (thumping her hand upon the table, with violence,) and it was as sure as the Bank of England; “For, thank God, “we have no duns here.” “In short,” said he, “I had a long chat with the “woman, and gave her a shilling at “parting; as, she promised to stand my “friend, and get me my money as soon “as you came to town.”

We were no sooner alone, than our servant, John, came into the parlour, and requested we would give him a patient hearing, and not be angry with him.

him. We bad him speak freely, and he began with saying, he was mightily in love with Mrs. Bridget, Madam's waiting-maid, meaning Mrs. Baddeley's; and, he never could be happy, unless he could have our consent to marry her, for she was the woman of his heart, and he could not live without her. "And how do you propose," said Mrs. Baddeley, "to maintain her?" By his industry, he said, and her service.— "What then," returned she, "you mean to continue with me?" "If you will give us leave, that is our design; and she shall wait on you as she does at present. I hope, therefore, you will consent to our marriage."—"But I must first know," said Mrs. Baddeley,

Baddeley, "whether she is disposed to
 "have you." He replied, she was, and
 if she would permit him, he would send
 her into the parlour. She was accord-
 ingly sent for; and, on being asked if
 she had any love for John, she answered
 in the affirmative. "Why, what a fly
 "wench you are;" said her mistress,
 "and do you wish to marry him?"
 She replied, yes; and should not be
 happy unless she did. "Well, then,"
 said Mrs. Baddeley, "you shall not
 "want my consent; and, if Mrs.
 "Steele will give you furniture for a
 "room, I will do all the rest, and give
 "you a wedding-dinner; so, you may
 "marry as soon as you please." She
 curtesied, and went away happy, to

acquaint John with what we had said. The wedding was soon solemnized. I gave them the complete furniture of one room; and, on the day of marriage, they and their fellow-servants had a good dinner, at our expence, uninterrupted; with as much wine, rum and brandy, as they could drink. She lived with us till she was ready to lie in, and then she left us. But she always found a friend in Mrs. Baddeley, who was liberal to a fault; for she was seldom well, and Mrs. Baddeley paid a great deal of money for physicians, apothecaries, and nurses, to attend her; but, like most low-bred people, her husband, from growing ungrateful, grew impertinent, and we got rid of him too.

She

She now ordered the coach to go to her milliner's ; and, though I went with her, to prevent any extravagance taking place ; she found means to lay out thirty pounds for gauze and blonds ; and, passing by Mr. King's, the mercer, would go in to see what new French silks he had ; he produced many ; and, on her saying, she could not afford to buy any, he said he would make her a present of what she wished ; or, he would give her seven years credit ; for, Mrs. Baddeley was a favourite of his, and he no less so of Mrs. Baddeley. In short, between them, she brought away two dresses, one at eighteen shillings a yard, and the other at a guinea. Going home, our horses became unruly, and we were

obliged to alight; and, as we walked through Coventry-street, were overtaken by Sir Cecil Bishop. When we came to the great china-shop there, she went in and purchased as much china as came to thirteen pounds nine shillings, which Sir Cecil, with great gallantry, insisted on paying for; and, as our coach followed us, we got in, and Sir Cecil politely took his leave.—

“This,” said Mrs. Baddeley, “is the
“consequence of going abroad; had I
“staid at home, I should not have had
“this china.” “True,” said I, “but
“had you staid at home, you would
“not have been seventy pounds more
“in debt than you was yesterday.” On
our return home, we found Lord Har-
rington

rington had called, and our man not being with us, the maid opened the door; his Lordship gave her half a guinea, and begged she would not fail to tell her mistress, that he would be there again in two hours; having made a little purchase, which he should beg her acceptance of. Mrs. Baddeley determined, therefore, to see him, to take, as she did from Lord Falmouth, what he had to present her with; and, meaning that this visit should be his last. He presently came, and said, a bauble had struck his fancy as he passed St. James's-street, which he begged she would do him the honour to accept, and wear in remembrance of him. This was a beautiful diamond hoop-ring, set in a pecu-

liar manner, that added to it's brilliancy; he requested permission to put it on, and placed it on the fourth finger of her left hand; saying, he wished himself and her, so circumstanced in life, that he could put it on in an honourable way; but, as fate put a bar between them, he could only assure her, that he presented it with as much sincerity, and put it on her finger with more love and affection, than he did Lady Harrington's, on his wedding-day. She could not but thank him for his genteel mode of making her a present, which she much admired; but, thought him no way justifiable in making such declarations, whilst so amiable a lady, as he had, was living. "My friends, my
"Lord,

“ Lord,” said she, “ seem to have taken
 “ up a wrong opinion of me ; I am not
 “ insensible of my indiscretions, and I
 “ blush to own them ; but, I am not
 “ conscious there is any thing in my
 “ conduct, that will justify attempts on
 “ my fidelity. Though the law forbids
 “ me to marry, I have a friend, to
 “ whom I owe infinite obligations,
 “ who indulges me in every thing my
 “ heart can wish, and to whom a breach
 “ of faith would be unpardonable. He,
 “ like a real gentleman, does not de-
 “ prive me of the pleasure of seeing my
 “ friends ; and, under this predicament,
 “ were I to see them in any other light
 “ than as *friends*, it would be the height
 “ of ingratitude. Whilst your Lord-
 “ ship

“ ship thinks proper to consider me in
“ that light, I shall be proud of the
“ honour of your company, whenever
“ it may be agreeable to you; but, to
“ admit of your visits in any other cha-
“ racter, will be doing an injury to
“ your Lordship, to myself, and to
“ many.” Lord Harrington, with all

the sensibility of a generous mind, commended her; said, he had attended to her with pleasure; that, her sentiments were noble, and did her great honour, and, that he should value her for them; and, he had only to lament, that he was not that happy man, that was nearer to her person; for, though his person and age, gave him no right to claim the attention of so beautiful, and amiable

a woman

a woman as her, yet, as various things occurred in life, that might give a turn to her sentiments, and situations; he hoped, as she might ever command both him and his fortune, let that turn take place when it would, she would bestow a favourable thought upon him.

When his Lordship was gone, she admired his present, said she wanted such a ring, and asked me if I thought she acted right; saying, she was determined to act so, by every married man that addressed her; and, was unhappy at Lord Melbourne's being married; more on account of his Lady, than herself; for, whenever he was with her, it took off all the pleasure she would otherwise have

have in his company ; “ But,” said she, “ the misfortune is, I am so deep in “ the mire, that I stick fast.” I then took the opportunity to try again, if I could not draw her into a more honest course of life ; and even offered her, on conditions she would return to, and live by, her profession, to give her a full discharge from any demands I had upon her ; and would endeavour, if she disliked a public life, to set her up in some business, that might support her in credit. As to the stage, she said, it was so much her detestation, that she would sooner meet her death, than engage on it again ; and as to business, she was totally unfit for it. In short, she could not think of altering her situation, bad

as

as it was, till she could not help it ; she now was happy in her circumstances, and would endeavour to continue so.

There was now to be a Ridotto, at the Opera-house, and, the ladies were to appear in fancied dresses, without masks ; we, therefore, began to prepare for it ; and, she resolved to make up the silk she bought that day of Mr. King, for that purpose ; and an elegant dress was made of it. It was a lilac-ground, with beautiful flowers, scattered down it. The sleeves were puckered gauze ; worn with a veil, richly trimmed with point-lace, which flowed in a manner that considerably added to it's beauty. The house was crowded with persons of
the

the first rank, and the ladies spared no expence to vie with each other in splendor of appearance; but yet I must say, no dress pleased me so much as Mrs. Baddeley's; nor, was any so much admired. Lord and Lady Melbourne were there, arm in arm, and walked together the whole evening; but, his Lordship did not omit to give Mrs. Baddeley many pleasant looks; and, even Lady Melbourne bestowed a smile upon her. We staid till five in the morning; and were handed to our coach by Mr. Montagu, and Lord Clanbrazil.

On our return home, Mrs. Baddeley found herself not well; and conceived, for the first time in her life, she was in
the

the way of many a married woman ; but, wished it might be kept a secret, till Lord Melbourne found it out himself ; but this never happened ; for, owing to a fright, in losing a favourite cat, which she had some reason to think was killed by a dog, she was taken ill, and miscarried. But we contrived it so, that no one knew it. It confined her to the house a fortnight. During this time she took an opportunity, by means of a friend, to give Mr. Gill to understand, (which he was to break to him by degrees,) that she had totally altered her mind about marrying ; that, if she gave her hand to any one, it should be to him ; yet, according to her present way of thinking, she would dispose of it

to no one. During this illness, Lord Melbourne was frequently with her, but never staid long; he told her, among other things, that his dear Betsey admired her dress, at the Ridotto, and said many civil things of her; and, he could have kissed her dear feet for it. She replied, that her Ladyship's attention to her, was more than she deserved; but, the fault was not her's; the blame rested with his Lordship.—“Yes,” returned he,

“Blame on, blame on, and be forgiven;

“And, by repentance, make a holiday in
Heaven:

“No more of this.—Here Mrs. Steele,
“is something to pay the doctor.” I
took it, and offered it to Mrs. Baddeley,
who

who bad me put it in my pocket. When he was gone, we looked at the money, and found it to be two hundred pounds. I told her this would help; not much, she said, for it was time Mr. P. had some more money. Mr. P. came in the evening, and I gave him this money, and took his receipt. He said if I wanted it, I might keep it, in part of the four hundred pounds I lent him, but that it came in good time, for he had many calls upon him; I declined it; therefore, he put it in his pocket. Mrs. Baddeley sent for him up-stairs, was very lavish in her compliments to him, and thanks; and begged him to put her in a way how she might be of service to him, in return;

that she might shew her gratitude otherwise than by words. He replied, that the pleasure of being of use to her and me, was an ample recompence, and that he had no view in what he did but to serve us.

When he was gone, Mrs. Baddeley said, she was sure that Mr. P. was in love with me; and, that all his services to her was on that score; that she had observed him every time he came, and that his eyes were riveted on me, and had me remark her words; for I should soon know it; and though I smiled at the assertion, yet, I determined never to see him more, but in the presence of a third person, that he might have no opportunity

opportunity, if it was so, of declaring himself.

Nothing occurred, in the course of her illness, worth notice, (as the knocker was muffled, and she was denied to every one but Lord Melbourne) except a circumstance, respecting Mr. Dibden, of Drury-lane Theatre; which, though it does him little credit, I shall relate; to shew the unthankfulness of the world, and what little encouragement there is to do any one a good office. He is now living; and I dare him to contradict it. He had been under obligations to Mrs. Baddeley before, but came now to request the loan of twenty pounds. Having given Mr. P. all we

had to spare, she found herself obliged to tell him, that she was not at that moment mistress of such a sum; or, she would lend it him with pleasure. He then said, he was undone, for he had an execution in his house; and, if he did not pay the money that day, all would be carried off and sold. He asked her if she would accept a draft for him, at six weeks; saying, he should be in cash at that time, and would take it up himself. She said, she had never done such a thing; but, if it would serve him; on condition that he would keep his word, and pay it when due, she would so far oblige him; but, that he must not disappoint her, as she had so many debts of her own to pay, that she could not
think

think of taking up that bill. He promised he would provide for it; drew the bill, and she accepted it. He passed this draft away; it became due, without Mr. Dibden's taking any notice of it, or even calling upon, or sending to us upon the subject. Of course it was brought to our house for payment. I told the bringer, Mr. Griffiths, who kept the Two Brewers, in Brewer-street; that Mrs. Baddeley was out of town, and that I could say nothing to it, Mr. Dibden having only borrowed her acceptance, and promised to honour the draft himself. He asked when she would be in town; I said in fourteen days. He then replied, he would wait that fourteen days with pleasure, if I would indorse it,

it,

it, but not else; and, that in the course of that time, I might find Mr. Dibden and get it paid. As Mrs. Baddeley had accepted the bill, I thought my name of little consequence, and accordingly indorsed it. About three hours afterwards, as I was going down the steps from my door, a well-dressed man accosted me; said, he had some business with me, and wished me to return into the house, and he would then acquaint me with it. I objected to this, and begged he would tell me his business there; he replied, he had a writ against me, but did not wish any one to know it; and therefore, begged me to return within the house. This alarmed me, and we went in. He then told me, it

was

was a trick that had been played me; and, that it was for the twenty pound draft, I had that day indorsed. He said, his name was Steele, that he was a Sheriff's Officer, and lived in King-street, Westminster; and added, that he saw the villainy of the proceeding, and would shew me all the indulgence he could. "Name your time, Madam," said he, "bail it, or pay it, it is the same, and "I will go immediately." I thanked him, gave him a guinea for his civility, said, I would advise with some friend on the occasion, and begged him to call the next day. I applied to an Attorney, who advised me to bail it, and stand trial; and, as I was a married woman, he would plead my coverture, and make
them

them pay the costs, for their villainy. "Send the officer to me Madam," said he, "and I will undertake for you." I sent for the officer, and he told me there were some disagreeable circumstances attending it, which I was not apprized of. "There is a name," said he, "on the bill, "and the person does not exist, and "should you bail it, it will enrage Griffiths, and perhaps lead him to give Mr. "Dibden trouble." I told him, Mr. Dibden was, in my opinion, a very respectable man, and above committing any improper action: he replied, he was of the same opinion, and advised, if I had any regard for him, to send for Griffiths, and pay him the money; in which case, the draft would be in my own possession, and

I might

I might do what I pleased with it. I told him, I *had* a regard for Mr. Diben, and his character, and would sooner pay the money, than he should have any trouble. Griffiths was sent for, he produced the draft, seemed unwilling to part with it; but, I snatched it out of his hand, paid him the money and the costs, and bid him get out of my house. He was very impudent, threatened to prosecute me, but on the officer's saying, as I paid the money, I had a right to the bill; he could not help himself. He swore however, he would prosecute me, but the officer only laughed at him; said, he was well matched, and it was only trick for trick.

When

When they were gone, I wrote to Mr. Dibden, but could get no answer. I then went to Chelsea after him; but he was never to be seen. Chance however threw him in my way, about six weeks afterwards; and, on my asking him why he never called; he pleaded business, and a new piece coming out at the theatre, that engaged all his time. Telling him, that I had been arrested for his note, and that I wished he would give me the money, as I paid it out of my own pocket; he replied, he was out of cash; but, on my informing him, what his friend Griffiths had said, respecting a false indorsement, on the back of the bill, and that I should not have paid it, but for his sake, and to
save

save him from any disagreeable consequences. He flew in a violent passion; swore at me; abused me in the grossest terms, and declared he would never pay me; that he was glad I was arrested; Mrs. Baddeley got her money easy enough; and, it was no great thing, if she had paid so small a sum for him. I then lost all patience; told him he was an ungrateful fellow; that, had *distress* been his excuse, I should have forgiven it, pitied him, and would have waited till it had suited him to repay me; but, to be so abused and served, for the pains I took to befriend him, was the most ungrateful return that I ever met with; and, that I would immediately sue him for the money.

He turned upon his heels, said, I might be d—n'd, and left me; and, to this hour, have I never received a shilling of it.

To come back to the subject of these memoirs. On our return one day from an airing, we were told that a Mr. Pigot had called, and said, he wished to see Mrs. Baddeley, on a matter of some moment, and would call again the next day. This was the Captain Pigot, whom we met with at Windsor; and, conceiving he had some message to deliver, from our friend there, when he came, he was admitted. But, his matter of moment, was only to tell Mrs. Baddeley, that he had no peace, night or day, since

since he saw her ; and, that he could not refrain from embracing the first opportunity of declaring how much he loved her ; and, how unhappy he should be, if she would not admit of his visits.—She only laughed at his folly ; said, she could not suppose him idle enough to conceive, that his visits would be acceptable to her, in the light he wished them to be considered ; and, made use of the same arguments she had frequently held out to others, in a similar predicament. But, no reason could divert him from his purpose, unless she would promise to see him when he called. She, with a great deal of good sense, told him her situation made it imprudent in her to receive him ; and, as her engagements,

and amusements seldom left her five minutes to spare, she could not think of it. But, he was too importunate, to be put off by this, and she could not otherwise get rid of him, than by assuring him, she should be happy to see him occasionally, among the rest of her friends; but, if his visits were too frequent, he must not be displeased, if she was sometimes denied. He dwelt long on the painful life he should live; that, the world without her, would be hateful to him, and so on; but, she would listen to none of it, and was forced to leave him abruptly, on a pretence of going out.

After

After he had left her, Mrs. Baddeley seemed to express a sorrow for the young man ; as it hurt her to give pain to any one ; but, at the same time, said, it was a very disagreeable thing, to be always importuned on a subject she could not attend to.—“ You know, my dear “ Steele,” said she, “ it is out of my “ power to receive such visits as his, “ and therefore I gave him a proper “ answer ; for, he had better feel his dis- “ appointment now, than, after having “ received some encouragement from “ me, to meet with it hereafter. In- “ deed,” continued she, “ though it is “ pleasing to be admired and thought “ well of ; it is to the last degree irksome, “ to be deprived of that rational conver-

“ sation, which makes the company of
“ gentlemen so agreeable, and to have
“ one’s ears filled with declarations of
“ love, and a parcel of nonsense, that
“ I am not in a situation to listen to. I
“ declare to you, my dear friend, I of-
“ ten wish I was a hermit, and lived in
“ a cave unnoticed by the world.” In-
deed, Mrs. Baddeley’s romantic turn,
frequently led her to wish herself in
some sequestered retreat, and she seldom,
when in the country, passed a neat cot-
tage, but she would remark, that it
looked like a happy place; and say, she
believed the inhabitants were far more
at ease, than those that walked in a
more exalted sphere of life. They know
no ambition; nor, have they a thought
above

above their present situation. But, these reflections seldom continued; a few hours longer, and nothing was uppermost but dress and preparation, for the amusements of the metropolis, operas, plays, masquerades, Vauxhall, and Ranelagh. Our life was such a continued scene of bustle and dissipation, that I wonder how she looked so well. Often, in summer time, have we returned from a place of amusement, at three in the morning; and, without going to rest, have changed our dress, and gone off in our phaeton, ten or twelve miles to breakfast; and, have kept this up for five or six days together, without any sleep. In the morning, to an exhibition, or auction; this followed

followed by an airing, into Hyde-park; after that, to drefs, then to the play; from thence, before the entertainment was over, away to Ranelagh, return perhaps at two; and, after fupper and a little chat, the horfes ordered, and to Epsom, or fome other place again to breakfast; and, thus would ſhe run on for many days together, and never ſay ſhe was tired.—Whenever we have been travelling, let our journey be ever ſo long, ſhe would travel night and day; always with four horfes, and as faſt as the drivers could make them go; for, ſhe never had any fear of robbers, or of accidents. In this way, ſhe ſpent a great deal of money; ſhe was liberal to the drivers, gave them four ſhillings, where others.

others gave them only two ; and, to all the servants on the road, was equally bountiful ; so, that they flew at her command, and she was worshiped wherever she went. The horses on the road, were always on a full gallop, and this she called *going like herself*.

I recollect, one day, Mrs. Baddeley making an appointment with two persons in trade, with whom she dealt very largely, to meet them at Stains-bridge, at twelve, and dine with them. The reader will excuse my not mentioning their names, as each of them has a family, and it might not only create uneasiness, but tend to injure them in the opinion of their creditors ; for, though no harm

was

was meant in this meeting, yet the world is apt to misconstrue things, and I am not at present disposed to give it an opportunity of so doing. But, they were disappointed in the pleasure they designed themselves. She wished to go to my house near Henley, the day before, and so cross the country to Stains-bridge, the next day, which was about twenty-one miles distant. We travelled in her phaeton; and, though we left Henley at seven in the morning, we could not reach Stains-bridge by dinner; for, as we took no servant with us, (being on an expedition she was unwilling should be known, in the fashionable circle;) we missed our way; and, when we thought of being at Stains-bridge, we found ourselves

ourselves at Hertford-bridge, in the Salisbury road. The disappointment was mortifying; but, as we found our horses weary, we had no alternative, but to hire a post-chaise and four, and leave our carriage to follow us. When we reached Stains-bridge, it was dark, and our friends were just gone. A splendid dinner had been ordered for our entertainment; and, the landlord told us, the gentlemen said, they were sure some mistake or accident had happened, or we should have been there at the time appointed. They came down in a post-chaise and four, and returned in one. We staid at the Bush Inn all night; and, in the morning, one of these persons, finding, on an enquiry in Grafton-street, that

that we had left town for Henley, the day before we proposed to meet; concluded, we should be at Stains-bridge some part of the day before, and that he should hear of us there; he, accordingly, was at the Bush Inn by eight o'clock. This friend was not a little pleased that he enjoyed, by accident, Mrs. Baddeley's company alone. He ordered every thing the house afforded for breakfast, and the same for dinner; for, Mrs. Baddeley being under some obligations to him, could not refuse staying. This man, like her fashionable admirers, poured out his whole soul before her; and, if she would but have listened to him, would have given her a receipt for five hundred pounds, which she owed to him and his partners, without
any

any regard to his family, property, or connexions. Her refusing to accept this, or listen to his proposals, put him out of humour, and led him to say, though he was not a Lord, he was no despisable character; and, he could assure her, he had the confidence of the first Lady in this kingdom, and did not a little pride himself upon the occasion.

Mrs. Baddeley was piqued at this, and began to redden; as she always did when she was vexed; and I wished her to say something proper to him upon the subject. She at last told him, she did not come there to take a dinner with him, but in a friendly manner, and could not suppose he would have

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had a thought of what he had been pleased to say; that his words, “ Though
“ he was not a Lord,” conveyed a double meaning, the explanation of which she was at no loss to comprehend. “ I
“ am sensible,” added she, “ that you
“ are no Lord, and that I am no Lady;
“ but, be what you will, Sir, I will
“ never place my confidence in you, or
“ give you an opportunity to boast of
“ what the first Lady in the kingdom
“ thinks proper to do with you. I
“ have various reasons for my resolutions;
“ but, as I mean not to offend
“ you, shall keep them to myself: permit me, however, to say, that as I
“ have it in my power to pay every just
“ debt I owe, without discharging it in
“ the

“ the way you intimate, you may re-
 “ serve your offers for those unhappy
 “ women, who are not in so fortunate
 “ a situation. You have a wife and
 “ children, reserve your benevolence for
 “ them, and leave me and my follies
 “ to myself. I hold myself obliged to
 “ you for this invitation, and had you
 “ acted as a friend would have done,
 “ should have spent my time agreeably
 “ in your company; as it is, I blame my-
 “ self for accepting it; and, had I staid
 “ at home, I should have given no of-
 “ fence, nor received any insult.”—

“ Mrs. Baddeley,” returned he, “ if I
 “ have said a word that can be deemed
 “ an insult, I beg your pardon; for, I
 “ meant no such thing. I too well

“ know the favour you have done me,
“ by coming to this house ; and, beg all
“ that is past, may be buried in obli-
“ vion ; nor, shall I be happy, till you
“ tell me you have forgot it.” She re-
plied, it was not in her disposition to
bear malice ; and, as he had atoned
for the affront, by his apology, she
would think no more of it. Our horses
were then ordered, and we paid our bill;
he offered to do it, but Mrs. Baddeley
would not suffer it. When our horses
were ready, we took our leave and left
him.

Mrs. Baddeley was more angry with
herself for this excursion, than ever I
saw her before. The trouble we had to
keep

keep our appointment, and the insult offered, so vexed her, that she could not forgive herself. “How do I deserve myself,” said she, “for my folly! After my refusing his receipt, to be reflected on in the spiteful manner he did!—But, I deserve it for accepting his invitation. From persons of fashion, except some few of them, one never hears an unpolite expression, nor any thing that can offend the most rigid chastity. Their elegance, their manner, their deportment, is captivating; but, these upstart shop-keepers are all rudeness and vulgarity; I hate them every where, but behind their counters.”

Among the rest of those dissipated married men, who courted the favour of Mrs. Baddeley, at the expence of their domestic happiness; there was one, tho' less in rank than many of her admirers, was not less conspicuous in life. This gentleman's name, I must also keep secret, out of regard to his wife, now living, who had a particular friendship for Mrs. Baddeley; and who, notwithstanding the indiscretion of her husband, was known to live happy with him, either not seeing, or wishing not to see, his failings. Often have I heard her say, how happy she was in her husband, who was no way given to any attachment foreign to that he had sworn at the altar; and, declaring at the same time, that if he

was,

was, she would not live another hour with him. This gentleman was a merchant in the city, well known on the Royal Exchange, and was rich. Though accounted a miser, he was lavish in his bounty to Mrs. Baddeley, whom he first saw at Ranelagh, and, where an acquaintance first took place, between her and this merchant's wife; and, which she was desirous of cultivating, in hopes of introducing herself into the society of some ladies. The merchant came the next day, to ask how she did; said, he had not acquainted his wife with his coming, as it would have been a mortification to her, not to have come with him; and, noticing some china jars in one of the rooms, said he had a couple,
that

that he thought would match them; and, if she would do him the favour to accept them, he would send them to her. She did not see his view in this; but, they were given as an introduction to her favour. She accepted the jars; and very large and valuable ones they were. Lord Melbourne came in soon after they were brought, and being made acquainted with their history, said, it was kind in the merchant, and advised her to keep up his acquaintance, as it would be a respectable family to pass an occasional evening with. Lord Melbourne was scarcely gone, but a card was brought from the Merchant's Lady, inviting herself to tea that evening. She came in her own carriage, with servants

in

in rich liveries ; and, as we sent for Dr. Arne, and Mrs. Baddeley sung ; she was, as she was pleased to say, enchantingly entertained. Her husband came at nine o'clock to conduct her home ; was more reserved than in the morning, and did not drop a word of the jars. The next morning he came again, to know if she had received them, and if they had met her approbation. She thanked him, but was sorry she had deprived his Lady of them. " Oh," said he, " she knew nothing of them, and " of course will not miss them." This opened our eyes a little ; and, when he told us, how happy he was in this accidental acquaintance, and how much he felt himself attached to Mrs. Baddeley ;

ley ; for, as all the world adored her, it was no wonder he should do so too : in short, when he confessed he loved her, and was not ashamed to own it, Mrs. Baddeley's prudence took the alarm ; “ Oh, fie, Sir !” said she, “ this declaration to me is a misfortune ; for, “ out of respect to your Lady, it will “ be out of my power to see you, even “ on the terms I was proud to receive “ you before.”—“ Madam,” returned he, “ I love my wife no less for my “ affection to you.” “ That's not possible,” returned Mrs. Baddeley, “ nor “ will I hear of such professions again ; “ for, they are not only disagreeable to “ me, but they hurt me.” “ Say not “ so, my dear Mrs. Baddeley,” said he,
“ for

“ for I must, and will love you ; and,
 “ here make you a tender of any thing
 “ in my power to add to your happi-
 “ ness. I have a fortune, which is no
 “ despicable one, and any part of it you
 “ may command.” “ Yes, Sir,” re-
 turned she, “ but you have a wife, and
 “ five children to partake of it.—In
 “ short, Sir, I tremble at your disposi-
 “ tion, and am sorry you are acting to
 “ the injury of an amiable family, and
 “ seeking to disturb both your wife’s
 “ peace, and mine.” “ No, my dear
 “ Madam,” returned he, “ believe me,
 “ I have no such thought ; but, in fact,
 “ I am not sufficiently master of myself
 “ to withstand your attractions, and I
 “ feel no remorse in telling you so ;
 “ and

“ and, as a token of my esteem, I have
“ brought with me a small present,
“ which I shall beg you to accept of,
“ on condition you promise to admit
“ me, when opportunity suits;” and,
taking out a handful of bank-notes, he
said, “ here, Madam, are a thousand
“ pounds at your service, and as much
“ more when you please to have it, on
“ the terms I have mentioned.” Mrs.
Baddeley told him, that money was no
object to her, nor would it tempt her
contrary to her natural inclinations;
therefore, begged him to put his notes
into his book again, and never offend her
more, by any further declarations of his
folly; for, that she loved his wife, for
her respectful attention to her, and if
his

his whole fortune was laid down, she would not injure her in his affection, or his pocket ; and, as this was her serious declaration, she hoped, as a gentleman, he would cease from proposing terms so dishonourable to his lady, and so painful to herself ; that, she wished for a continuance of his friendship, but must decline it, unwilling as she was, if she was any more talked to on this subject.

“ All your preaching,” said he, “ my
 “ dear Mrs. Baddeley, is to little pur-
 “ pose. I feel myself so wretched, out
 “ of your company, and so happy in it ;
 “ that I must find my way to you, in
 “ spite of every obstacle ; and, if you
 “ refuse to see me, it will make me mi-
 “ serable.” She replied, she ever had

a wish to make all her friends happy, except, when they required of her, what both prudence and justice forbad; “I thank my God,” exclaimed she, “among all the sins I have to answer for, I never betrayed a confidence, nor had connexions with the husband of any female friend; nor, shall any thing on earth tempt me to it.”—He expostulated with her a great deal, made large offers, and would have given her any sum of money she would name; and, went so far as to tender her fifteen hundred pounds. This, to do Mrs. Baddeley justice, had no weight with her, for money was not her idol; so she had enough for her use, she never coveted more, and was hurt, when it was mentioned

mentioned, even by her best friends; for, she had a wish, at all times, to have the man of her heart under such obligations to her, and not be under such to him. But here the case was different. Though various attempts were made by this Merchant to seduce her to compliance, she opposed them all; but never betrayed them to his wife, with whom she was on the most intimate footing; and, the gentleman, though he met with a repulse so repugnant to his wishes, could not but confess, he admired her more for her disposition than her beauty; acknowledged that her sentiments were noble and generous, and declared, that through life, he should revere, honour, and love her. Here

the matter ended. No more was ever mentioned on the subject on either side. Mrs. Baddeley preserved his friendship, and that of his wife's, till the day I parted with her, and probably to the end of her life. Thus would men often, to gratify a momentary pleasure, sacrifice a wife, a family, and fortune; and, thus would a few hours serious reasoning, bring such a man back to a proper way of thinking. Would the female sex take a lesson from this example of Mrs. Baddeley, and check their seducers in that riot of their passions, when reason is overcome; and lay before them, as she did, the rashness and extravagance of their pursuit, and the fatal consequences that await it; how greatly would they merit

merit the commendations of the virtuous ; how high would they stand in the esteem of the world ; and, how exalted in their own reflections ! In saving themselves, they would often rescue a wretched family from destruction ; and children, perhaps unborn, would be bound to bless their memory.

And yet, when Mrs. Baddeley refused this money, she was very much in want of it ; for, Lord Melbourne, at this time kept his purse-strings so close, that she was often obliged to write to him for small sums ; as the following letter will shew.

Q 3

“ My

“ My Dear Love,

“ I am exceedingly distressed for
 “ twenty pounds, and if I have it not
 “ to day, it will really be of bad con-
 “ sequences.—I think, I am fully as de-
 “ serving as *some folks* you are so atten-
 “ tive to. I dare say you know who I
 “ mean.—And I am sure, I have no
 “ right to question you, but, am sorry
 “ to think, you stand in need to be con-
 “ stantly put in mind of your old
 “ friends.

“ God blefs you !

“ I am, most invariably your’s,

“ Sophia Baddeley.”

To the Right Honourable

Lord Melbourne.

Being

Being induced one evening, to go to a puppet-show, called the *Fantocini*, we met with the Duke of Ancafter, who fat down by Mrs. Baddeley, and said many civil things to her; but stared at her so much, during the whole exhibition; that she grew uneasy, fearing it would be noticed, and get into the newspapers; than which she dreaded nothing more. When we left the place, she remarked to me, that she was sure, she should see the Duke, or hear something from him, before it was long; for he stared so much at her, that she was almost out of countenance. Her words soon came to pass; for, before ten the next morning, his Grace came to Grafton-street; muffled up in a great coat, so

so as not to be known. Being desired to send up his name, he said, it was of no consequence, that he was with us last night, at the *Fantocini*, and if that was mentioned, Mrs. Baddeley would know who it was. He was admitted, and we went into the parlour to him. The Duke addressed himself to Mrs. Baddeley; hoped she was well which he could not say, was the case with him; as he had been much disturbed all night, wishing for the morning, that he might have an opportunity, of waiting on her, in order to say, that he never yet saw her at any public place, but she made him happy for the time; but, that this pleasure always ended in pain. "For," said his Grace, "you are such a wonder

" of

“ of nature, that no man can gaze on
 “ you unwounded.—You are in this re-
 “ spect like the Basilisk, whose eyes
 “ kill those whom they fix on.” Mrs.
 Baddeley replied, “ Your Grace has said
 “ sufficient to raise my vanity; but,
 “ conscious of my own imperfections,
 “ I shall set it down to flattery.” “ No;”
 returned the Duke, “ set it down as it
 “ is; to sincerity.—You are absolutely
 “ one of the wonders of the age.” She
 admitted this, but that it was for her im-
 prudence.” “ Not so, on my honour,”
 returned he, “ I mean for your per-
 “ sonal attractions; and, how happy must
 “ the man be, possessed of such a wo-
 “ man!” Mrs. Baddeley replied, As
 “ your Grace, has been pleased to
 “ pay

“ pay me such a compliment; permit
 “ me in return to say, how happy
 “ must the Duchess of Ancaſter be, in
 “ ſuch a huſband as your Grace; pro-
 “ vided, you would think of no other
 “ woman!” “ I do not,” returned the
 Duke, “ except it be of you, and, it is
 “ not in my power to avoid it. My
 “ declarations have been frequent to
 “ you on this head; but, as you never
 “ noticed them, I muſt own, I grew
 “ weary in the purſuit; but, the acci-
 “ dental interview of laſt night, has re-
 “ newed all my former wiſhes, and, I
 “ could no longer reſiſt the inclination
 “ of telling you ſo; and could I have
 “ the ſatiſfaction to find you meet my
 “ wiſhes, you ſhould be as happy as my
 “ fortune

“fortune and my attention could
 “make you.” Mrs. Baddeley heard
 his Grace out patiently, and, when he
 paused, she made him this reply.
 “When I consider your Grace’s rank
 “in life, I hold myself in duty bound,
 “to thank you for the honour of your
 “notice; but, when I reflect on the na-
 “ture of that notice, that condescension
 “which brought your Grace here, and
 “the impropriety of the visit; my heart
 “shudders at the consequence. I own
 “myself to be, a weak; foolish woman,
 “given up to the pleasures of the world,
 “and, I confess, that to support that dis-
 “position, and my inclinations, I have
 “done things, which I ought not to
 “have done; but I trust, I have not
 “gone

“ gone such lengths in wickedness, as to
“ disturb the peace of families. In my
“ present situation, I want for nothing,
“ but, the sole affection of the man, I
“ am under obligations to. This in-
“ deed, I am not entitled to; and, if I
“ have err’d with him, it shall be the
“ last fault of the kind I will commit.
“ The uneasiness I have felt, on that
“ account, has been sufficient cause for
“ reflection; and, has made me deter-
“ mine, that I never will listen to the
“ proposals of any married man again.
“ Your Grace, will, I trust, therefore
“ pardon me for saying, I must, and
“ will decline, hearing any thing that
“ may tend to your dishonour, as well
“ as my own. I have as high a re-
“ spect

“ spect for your Grace, as any one can
 “ have ; and, should be unhappy to of-
 “ fend you ; nay, was your Grace to
 “ lay any commands on me, in an ho-
 “ nourable way, I would risk my life
 “ to obey them ; but, in the present
 “ state of things, I must decline them,
 “ and hope I shall not displease, by so
 “ doing.” “ Indeed, Mrs. Baddeley,”

returned the Duke, “ you do not dis-
 “ please me ; I have listened to you
 “ with real pleasure, and think myself
 “ highly indebted to you ; little did I
 “ expect to be so politely admonished,
 “ as you have done it ; and be assured,
 “ as far as I can follow your advice,
 “ I will strictly adhere to it ; and, in re-
 “ turn, you will, at all times, find me
 “ happy to serve you, or oblige you.

“ Should you ever stand in need of a
 “ friend, (as we all sometime or other
 “ do,) be assured you will find one in
 “ me, and I hope you will not omit ap-
 “ plying to me, on every little occur-
 “ rence, where I can be of service.
 “ I find you full of sensibility, and no-
 “ ble sentiment, beyond the power of
 “ temptation, and free from avarice;
 “ as such, you deserve *my* applause, and
 “ that of every thinking person; and,
 “ depend on it, as a man of honour, I
 “ will never distress you, by a repeti-
 “ tion of this business; but, adore you
 “ in silence and contemplation.

When his Grace left us, Mrs. Bad-
 deley, as usual, asked me, how I ap-
 proved of her conduct, and whether I
 did

did not think she acted with propriety; I told her I did, and that it had a very proper effect upon the Duke. She then asked me, whether she appeared graceful in the delivery of her sentiments; for she saw him watch every motion of her's. "That," replied I, "I did not attend to; but, your expressions were such as became you." "Well then," said she, "Steele, you see I can now withstand temptations;" "Yes," returned I, "and had you done so, from the commencement of our acquaintance; how happy a woman would you have been; and how comfortably should you and I have sat down and enjoyed ourselves!" "What's past," said Mrs. Baddeley, "must be forgot; you perceive I mend daily. I

“ now see into the folly of mankind, and
“ cannot but observe, how much more
“ they respect the woman, who checks
“ their inclinations, and puts a negative
“ to what they solicit; than she who
“ falls in with their wishes, and gratifies
“ them by compliance. I will endeavour,
“ therefore, to secure their friendship,
“ ship, by my prudence; and act with
“ the reserve you wish me.” Scarce had
she uttered these words, before Lord
Melbourne came in, and said, he was
come to stay with her a few hours. He
told her, he was going to Bath, at least,
he supposed he should; for, his dear
Betsey had talked of it, and if he went,
he should be gone three weeks. “ If
“ you do,” said Mrs. Baddeley, “ I will,
“ in

“ in your absence, make an excursion
“ into the country.” With this he seemed pleased. Whilst his Lordship was with her above, Mr. P. came to tell me, that having agreed for the purchase of an estate, he was in want of money; and asked me, if I could help him to any; on my saying, I could not at present, he turned it off with, he would endeavour to shift without my assistance. He then told me, how much trouble he had taken, in Mrs. Baddeley’s affairs; what sums he had paid for her, besides the draft he had accepted on her account, and that he was considerably in advance; all which, he was pleased to say, was to oblige me; for, that Mrs. Baddeley was not any thing to him, nor would he accept any favour from

her in return; his view being to serve me, as he was convinced her affairs must have a great deal embarrassed me; that, he advanced the money, upon my credit, knowing that it was safe in my hands, and that he should look to me, and me only, when it suited for a reimbursement. All this I looked over; as it served her, I was satisfied, be it on whose account it might. He then enquired, whether Lord Melbourne had been more liberal to her lately; I told him not; but, that his Lordship promised to discharge the whole of her debts, and had been informed of his kindness to her; and begged, if he was in want of the money, he would say so, and I would ask Lord Melbourne for it. He replied, "By no means; I will wait his
"convenience."

“ convenience.” He then told me, he had that day paid one hundred and seventy pounds for Mrs. Baddeley; and also paid my landlord, one hundred pounds, for half a year’s rent, on my account, and placed it against the four hundred pounds I had lent him, and gave me the receipt, taken in my name. Mr. P. went away soon after this; and Lord Melbourne came down to me, and as he went out, said, he had not forgot me; that, I should have money from him soon, and begged me to go up to Mrs. Baddeley, who was ill, with her old complaint, a head-ach. I went up to her, and found her head-ach was a pretence to quiet Lord Melbourne, who, from being in high spirits, was as noisy as he could be. On telling her the conversation

versation that passed, between me and Mr. P. and saying, he had paid one hundred pounds for rent, which he charged to my separate account; she said, Lord Melbourne might be ashamed of himself, for not keeping his word with me, (alluding to his promise of paying the rent of Grafton-street house); but that should he not do it, she would, some time or other. I told her, that unless his Lordship did, *she* never should; and turned the subject.

As his Lordship meant to be absent from town, three weeks, Mrs. Baddeley seemed resolved, on an excursion. Many places were thought of; but, at last it was determined between us, to go to Margate. The next day, however, we

went

went to Ranelagh, where Colonel Lut-
terel, now Lord Carhampton, took
some pains to introduce himself to Mrs.
Baddeley's notice. Those who are ho-
noured with the acquaintance of this
Nobleman, must allow him to be a
man of refined sentiments, highly po-
lished, and a complete Gentleman.
Mrs. Baddeley, was much taken with
his address, and engaging manners; and,
he drank tea with us. In the course of
conversation, he told us, he should set
off in a few days, for Luttrell's-town,
near Dublin, the place of his residence,
where Lord Townshend then was; and,
how happy he should think himself, if
Mrs. Baddeley would take a trip to see
him; that, he would shew her Ireland,
all over, if she wished to see it, and
assured

assured her, his situation was so delightful, that it would give her great pleasure. He continued in our company the whole evening, and seemed not a little pleased, that he was enviously noticed by his friends. When we thought proper to go home, he politely attended us to our carriage, hoped Mrs. Baddeley would accept his invitation, and said, he would call on her the next day.

Mrs. Baddeley was delighted with this new acquaintance, thought the Colonel a very sensible well-bred man; but, what took with her most, was, that he did not, like the rest of her noble friends, make her sick with a heap of nonsense about love, beauty, attractions, and the like;

like ; but, his conversation was manly, sensible, and chearful, and she hoped she should see him the next day. She said, she should be delighted to see Ireland; and, as soon as she could arrange her affairs with Mr. P. and Lord Melbourne gave her money to pay him, she would absolutely take a trip there ; for, she could go there and back in a month, allowing herself three weeks in the place. I said a great deal in opposition to this scheme, and told her, that the impropriety ought to forbid it. She replied, the Colonel was a gentleman of too much honour and sensibility, to urge her to any thing against her inclinations. But the world, I told her, would condemn her, though she might not deserve it. She said, if she was to study

to please the world, she should have enough to do. I then urged her to study her own interest, and asked her whether she thought Lord Melbourne would approve of it. She did not mean, she said, to tell him any thing about it; she should say, she was going to some other place; that she would change her name, and hide herself from all who knew her. In short, she was determined to go there, before a month was over her head.

Next morning, Colonel Lutterel came, and went with us to see a relation of mine at Chelsea, where we staid dinner; and, in the course of the day Luttrel's town was again mentioned, when Mrs. Baddeley said, " I intend to
" see

“ see that sweet place shortly ;” and, the lady we were with, saying, she should like to see it also, the Colonel gave her a friendly invitation to come over with Mrs. Baddeley ; for, she was a chearful woman, and pleased the Colonel much. She said, her husband was going to Portsmouth for two months, and as she might go in his absence, begged not a word of it might be dropped to him, he being out of the room when the matter was talked of. This determined Mrs. Baddeley at once, and the Colonel pressing them to promise him, they assured him he should see them there before the expiration of a month. The Colonel then entertained them with the amusements and delights of the place, romantic country of Wales, through

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which they would travel; the charming mountains they would have to pass over; the harps they would hear at every door; in short, he gave them so pleasing an account of what they would see, hear, and meet with, that they were both in raptures. We spent the evening with our friends, and being asked to breakfast with them, the next morning, and the Colonel accepting the invitation, we called on him in our way there, and took him in our carriage. We breakfasted in a tent upon a lawn, and our friends having provided a band, who played some soft music; we fancied ourselves in Elysium. When we took our leave, the invitation to Ireland was renewed, and as cordially accepted. The Colonel would fain have

have had me go with them, but I refused; as I thought it would be necessary to be in the way, to give answers to any enquiries that might be made. Mrs. Baddeley pressed me to accompany her, saying, she should not be happy without me; but, as I promised to come and fetch her back, she was pretty easy, and suffered me to stay. The Colonel was soon let into the whole of Mrs. Baddeley's situation; saw the propriety of my staying in London to keep Mr. P. easy; he said, he was sorry he was so circumstanced, that he could not pay her debts himself; (and as he was a man without deception, she believed him) but, that her absence might spur Lord Melbourne on to do it; and hoped, that when all was quiet, I would come

over to them: and, it was settled, that no one should know where she went, nor even our own servants, except her man and maid, whom she would take with her, and my daughter, a child about nine years of age; for, she would not go without her, being part, she was pleased to say, of myself.

The next day we all dined with Colonel Lutterel, at his house, in Curzon-street, May-fair, and went to the play in the evening; and he seemed proud of being in Mrs. Baddeley's company, and to be there noticed by all his acquaintance.

The journey was now settled, and the mode of travelling fixed on; but, where
was

was the money to defray the expences? This I proposed to lend Mrs. Baddeley, and said, I would let her have two hundred pounds. Finding now no obstacle, she was quite wild with pleasure; went to her fellow-traveller, and settled the matter with her, who was equally as eager as herself. We all dined with the Colonel, and the next morning, before his departure for Ireland, he breakfasted with us, and took his leave.

This friend of mine continued with us four days, and was joined by the family from Windsor, where we had been well entertained. During the time they staid, we took every means of shewing them what was worth seeing in London;

and, on their return, they had our horses and carriage as far as Hounslow.

Mrs. Baddeley began now to prepare for her journey. She ordered a new riding-habit, white, with a pale blue silk waistcoat, trimmed with silver lace; spangles, and silver frogs, as was then the fashion; with as elegant a hat as could be made. She had a variety of new clothes made up for the occasion, and was ready in a week; but, Lord Melbourne, in all this time, did not give her a guinea. She now waited impatiently for his going to Bath. That journey was, however, put off; but, as good luck would have it, he came and told her, that he was going out of town for fourteen days; and, on his return,

would

would make her happy. It was, in consequence of this, planned, that she should go as soon as he went; and, on his return, he was to be told, that she was with a relation of mine near Henley. Before she set off, I gave her my advice; told her, she was going to the house of a gay man, an admirer of the women; and I feared he would expect, what she, with prudence, should refuse. She bad me not to be uneasy, that he had never yet said, or offered any thing that could offend the chastest ear; and, that she had that confidence in his integrity, that she could trust herself with him in any place. “In short,” said she, “let him make what advances he will, I now see the way to be respected, is to be reserved; and, I am de-
“terminated

“ terminated to secure his esteem by such
 “ conduct.”

We began to talk of her going to my house at Henley, as a blind to our servants, and they all believed it was so designed; and, my friend's husband going to Portsmouth the next day, where he had an office under government, she would be ready at any time. This we heard on the Thursday, and it was agreed that they should set off the Sunday following. In the interim came Mr. John Hanger, to tell us of the death of his father; this was in the year 1773; but, Mrs. Baddeley pleaded illness, and would not see him. I saw him, and persuaded myself, as he was now come to the title and estate, he
 would

would have it in his power to shew Mrs. Baddeley some gratitude for all that was past, and told him so ; but, he only laughed, and turned upon his heel, with “ A good morning to you, Mrs. “ Steele.” When I told Mrs. Baddeley of this, she said, “ I don’t believe “ I shall be any thing the better for “ him or his title. His vanity is rais- “ ed, I dare say, but, I cannot com- “ pliment him, when I consider his “ treatment of me. If he possessed a “ good heart, he would now come, and “ tell me he would atone for all his past “ behaviour, and do me justice ; but, “ he is a stranger to every thing that “ is right, and thinks of no one but “ himself.”

Every

Every thing was now left in my charge, not only respecting Mrs. Baddeley, but every thing belonging to my friend. On Saturday night, she left town in the phaeton, took her man and her maid with her, but they were not let into the secret, till they were at some distance from town. They went in the stage before them. We drove to my friend's house at Chelsea, where the phaeton was to be put up, till their return, and the next morning they set off in a post-coach and four for Chester. I went with them as far as St. Alban's, where we parted; and, I thought Mrs. Baddeley would have broke her heart; she sobbed and cried like a child, and I never thought she loved me till then. In short, our parting was an affecting scene,

scene, for there was not a dry eye among us. She promised to write to me daily, and kept her word; her letters were directed, to be left at the post-office, till called for, and I thus travelled with her; for, she was very minute in all the accounts she gave me. She passed for the Honourable Mrs. Steele. In five days, they reached Holy-head, and hired a packet, to carry them to Dublin.

She had not been absent two days, before Mr. P. called, and enquired if I had any money for him, and where Mrs. Baddeley was gone. I told him, she was gone to my house in Oxfordshire, for a few days; and, that as to money, I was as bare, as when he called last.

He

He then enquired where Lord Melbourne was; and, on my saying, he was gone out of town, for a fortnight, seemed much disappointed; and said, several drafts, he had accepted on Mrs. Baddeley's account, would be due in a day or two, and he did not know what he should do. I told him, Lord Melbourne had promised us money on his return, and hoped, that would be time enough; he replied, if I could not help him to any sooner, it must be time enough; but, that it would put him to some inconveniencies; and, on his Lordship's return, should he not give me any voluntarily, I must ask him for some. I told him, I was under no apprehensions, respecting his bounty, for I had no doubt, but he would do as
he

He always had done. He seemed satisfied with this, and left me.

During Mrs. Baddeley's absence, most of her friends called, to enquire after her, and among the rest Lord Coleraine, who was a troublesome visitant, whenever he came. He was more like a mad-man, than any thing else; vowing, he would never forgive me, if I did not tell him where Mrs. Baddeley was; that, see her he must, and would find her, if she was above ground; for, that he was wretched, and miserable without her. I told him she was not far off, but where she wished to see no one; and that I was sure, if chance threw him in her way, she would not speak to him; as she never could forget the injuries

she had received from him. He replied, if I would not tell him, he would try if he could not find her out; for, he would spare no expence; and would hunt her to the world's end. He strove to bribe my servants, but it was to no purpose; for we had acted so, that, they were as much strangers to the place where she was, as his Lordship. He enquired at every inn in town, to know whether any horses had been sent for to our house; went down to my house near Henley, where he had some suspicion he should find her, and made all the enquiries, in that neighbourhood, he could. He then came back again to me, told me where he had been, and the pains he had taken to find her; I asked his Lordship, from whom he had
his

his information, that she was in Oxfordshire; he told me, he had been made acquainted that she was there, but, I found it was not true; she had been there, I told him, but was now gone down to bathe in the sea. He no sooner heard this, than off he flew to Brighthelmstone, and not finding her there, was back with me the next day, saying, where he had been, and offered me five hundred pounds in bank-notes, for my own use, if I would tell him where he could find her. I told his Lordship that a bribe had no weight with me; that I would not tell him, and therefore, begged he would teaze me no more. He cried, and swore, and raved like a mad-man, on which I left him to himself, and he soon went away, and I saw no more

of him for three days. In this time he travelled, night and day to Margate, Ramsgate, Southampton, Weymouth, and I know not where, in search of her. He then returned to me, informed me of his ill success, and entreated me as before, and offered me a thousand pounds. I then found myself under the necessity of declaring, by all that was good and sacred, that I would never tell him; and requested, he would come no more to my house, for that I would not be so troubled; it being her wish not to see him; and that she had secreted herself, for that very purpose. I asked him, as he was now so much in cash, whether, on condition of my telling him where she was, he would pay all her debts, which amounted to near
four

four thousand pounds, including what she owed me. He replied, he had not money enough, or he would. "How much then," returned I, "will you pay towards them?" "Tell me," said his Lordship, "first where she is, and you shall then know." I told him, if he would give me his bond, to pay three thousand pounds, I would tell him, and that he should have six months allowed him to pay two thousand pounds of the money. He would do no such thing; "Then why," returned I, "did you offer me such a sum, and will not do as you ought, by Mrs. Baddeley, whom you profess so much to love? The thousand pounds you offered me, I will give to her; and, if you will add two thou-

“ fand pounds more to it, you fhall
“ know where ſhe is, but on no other
“ terms. Now, if your Lordſhip va-
“ lues her, as you pretend to do, you
“ would chearfully embrace the propo-
“ ſal; but, permit me to ſay, at the
“ ſame time, that unleſs you agree to
“ it this day, an offer of ten times the
“ ſum to-morrow ſhall not open my
“ lips.” He ſaid, I ſhould have the
thouſand pounds he offered; but he
could give no more. At this I told
him, I would not accept a ſhilling of
him on that ſcore; but, if he would pay
me the money he owed me, I would
take it, and thank him. This he would
not do. I then gave him to underſtand,
that what I had ſaid, reſpecting her
debts, was merely to try how far his
value

value for her would extend ; that in fact she was not in want of his assistance ; but, that I saw plainly, if she had been, he would be the last person, that would stand forth to relieve her ; that I requested, I might never see him again, and that if he called a hundred times, I would always be denied ; at this he took himself away, angrily, saying, he should call and try, whether he could not see me, notwithstanding what I was pleased to say to the contrary. He now, some way or other, found his way to the lady's house at Chelsea, and, by bribing the servants, got intelligence, that she was in Oxfordshire ; though this he contradicted, saying, he had been there, and could hear nothing of her. The servants, who supposed she was there with

with their mistress, assured his Lordship, that they went together, and that they must be there. He then enquired for their master, and learned, he was at Portsmouth. Now she had written two letters, left them with me for her husband, one to be sent each week, during her absence : one of these letters I had sent the day before. His Lordship followed this letter the next day to Portsmouth, and told the lady's husband, that he was come in search of Mrs. Baddeley, who he was informed, was gone off to some distance from London, with his wife. " That is impossible," said the Gentleman, " for I received a letter from her " this day dated Chelsea." Lord Coleraine, assured him, she was not there, and, if the letter was sent him, he was imposed upon ;

upon; for, that he was at his house the day before, and that she had been gone some days. "Where is Mrs. Steele?" said the Gentleman. "In Grafton-street," returned his Lordship, "and as obstinate as the devil; determined not to tell me where she is; but, by a fee to a man who assisted her coachman, I learned your lady was gone off with her." "Depend upon it, my Lord," returned the Gentleman, "you will find Mrs. Baddeley secreted at my house." Lord Coleraine then offered him five hundred guineas, if he would go to town with him, and convince him of it. His reply was, "As the stores of Portsmouth-yard are wholly under my care, and I am obliged to attend
 " the

“ the delivery of them, I cannot go
 “ for some days, but I will write to
 “ my wife, and I dare say shall have
 “ an answer from her; and, as your
 “ Lordship seems so unhappy, you shall
 “ know from me what she says upon
 “ the occasion.” This being agreed on,
 his Lordship returned to town.

Finding, by my servants, that Lord
 Coleraine meant to go to Portsmouth,
 in search of her; I thought it prudent,
 for my friend's sake, to go there also:
 I accordingly went, and requested that
 if Lord Coleraine, or any person from
 him, should enquire about Mrs. Bad-
 deley, not to say, that she was at his
 house at Chelsea; when she, in fact, was
 gone to be secreted from him. The
 Gentleman

Gentleman asked why he was not made acquainted with this before ; and, then told me of Lord Coleraine's being with him, and what he had promised, in consequence of it. " He would have persuaded me," said he, " that my wife was gone off, to some place or other, but he could not learn where ; and, I was just going to write, to enquire into the matter ; for, had she dared to have done such a thing, without my knowledge, I never would forgive her." " Oh," replied I, " make yourself easy, for, I know your wife well, and am convinced she would not think of such a thing. You must therefore, keep this affair a secret." He assured me he would. I urged him to accompany me to town, knowing he could

not,

not, which he excused himself from doing, being tied by the leg, he said, for a month to come. Glad was I to hear this, though I pretended the contrary; for, this Gentleman was a Dane, and of a jealous disposition, though he had very little cause for it; and, I should have been sorry, had he known his wife was from home. He desired me to leave his Lordship to him, and he would match him; for if he came again, he would say, they were gone to Tunbridge-wells. For, "I assure you, my
" dear Mrs. Steele," said he, "though
" I did not give much credit to his
" Lordship's tale, it made me rather
" uneasy; as, when a man is so far
" distant from home, there is no know-
" ing what may happen." I staid at

Portf-

Portsmouth that night, spent the evening with him; and in the morning, at parting, he wished me to tell his wife, to send him down ten pounds, by the coach, the next day. Having ten pounds in my pocket to spare, I begged him to take it, and I would receive it of his wife in town. This I did to prevent a discovery; he took it kind, and we parted. In my way home, I called at my friend's house, at Chelsea, and found from the servants, that Lord Coleraine had been there and insisted on seeing Mrs. Baddeley, who he knew was in that house; for, he had been at Portsmouth, and their master had told him so; that, he ran up-stairs, and finding the rooms locked, would not believe but she was there with their mistress, and that

he said, he would be there again. I told them, at their peril, not to let him in any more; for whoever did, should be discharged. They assured me, one and all, that they would obey my directions, and should not have suffered him, to go up-stairs as he did, if he had not been a Lord, and thought he must not be affronted. “ You have
“ nothing more to say,” replied I,
“ should he call again, but, that your
“ mistress is from home; and, has given
“ strict orders not to admit him; and,
“ should he ask for Mrs. Baddeley, to tell
“ him, she is not at your house but
“ gone, as she is determined not to see
“ him; and then come and acquaint me,
“ with the result.” On my return home, I found he had been there, told the servants,

vants, he had been at my house, near Henley, and, at Portsmouth, and had learned, Mrs. Baddeley was at Chelsea; that he had a message to deliver to me from Portsmouth, and must see me.

I sent to the Post-office, and received two letters from Mrs. Baddeley, from Luttrell's town, in Ireland, saying, she was safe arrived at the seat of Colonel Lutterell; that the reception she met with, was greater even than she expected; and, that the Colonel's behaviour, and attention was so engaging, that she liked him prodigiously; that a Colonel Smith was there also on a visit; that the mansion was an elegant one, superbly furnished; that the Park, in which it stood, was a noble, and extensive

one; that, she wanted only my company, to complete her happiness; and that the whole party wished to see me, as soon as possible.

Whilst I was reading these letters, my maid came up and said, Lord Coleraine's servant was below, having a message to deliver me from his master. This man brought Lord Coleraine's compliments to me, and informed me, that his master was convinced Mrs. Baddeley was secreted at Chelsea, and that he was determined to see her, if he lost his life in the attempt; that, he was there not an hour ago, and found the doors all locked, by order of the lady of the house, and no admittance for him; and, that

that he was informed Mrs. Baddeley was gone, which he knew to be false. I told the servant that his master should beware molesting people in their own houses; that, the lady had applied to her attorney in consequence of his behaviour, and I had no doubt, but an action would be brought against him. The servant, who was a complete Irishman, swore by Jafus, that he believed his master was mad for Mrs. Baddeley; that, he would not let them rest day or night, but was every where flinging about after her, and the devil-a-bit of ease could they get; that his Lord was now sure she was at Chelsea, and it was a pity that where there was so much love, there should be so little satisfaction; that, for sartain, according to what he could

larn, he did deserve to feel a little bit of uneasiness for his tricks; but yet, God blefs him, there was no necessity for killing the poor gentleman out-right: “Tell
 “ your Lord from me,” replied I, “ that
 “ Mrs. Baddeley, determined not to see
 “ him, is gone to some other place;
 “ and if he persists—” “ Do, dear
 “ lady,” returned the man, “ put what
 “ you have to say on a piece of paper,
 “ for I dare as well eat my tongue as
 “ tell him.” This I refused to do, and
 he went off with “ Your servant, good
 “ lady. If you had sent a kinder mes-
 “ sage to my maister, you would not
 “ have repented it.”

As soon as he was gone, I sat down
 and wrote to Mrs. Baddeley, every
 thing

thing about Lord Coleraine, excepting what related to her friend's husband; requesting directions how to act, saying, she must not expect me, till I had seen Lord Melbourne, and could some way or other settle matters with Mr. P. I took this letter to Lombard-street, and directed it, under cover, to Colonel Lutterell. Whilst I was gone, Mr. P. called, and left word, he had something of consequence to inform me of, and would call again in the evening. I supposed it was about money matters; but, when he came, found myself deceived. Lord Coleraine had hunted him out, told him a long tale of Mrs. Baddeley, that she was gone off, and no one knew where, and asked him if he knew where she was; he told his Lordship, she was
at

at my house near Henley, which Lord Coleraine contradicted, saying, he had been there. “And now,” with a very serious face, said he, “it is time, Mrs. Steele, I should ask you where she really is.” I replied, “Safe enough from Lord Coleraine, who she is determined not to see, and I commend her for it; for, I made a proposal to him, that if he would pay her debts, I would acquaint him where she was; and, if he had such a wish to see her, as he seems to have, I doubted not but that he would embrace the terms. This he refused, and I then turned it off, and said, ‘I made the proposal only to try him.’ I am convinced, Sir,” continued I, “that he must have some ill design, or he would
“ advance

“ advance some money for her, when
 “ he could offer me a thousand pounds
 “ to tell him where she was.” Mr. P.
 replied, that, considering the treatment
 she had received from him, he ought to
 advance her some money; and, that I
 did right to keep him in the dark; but,
 there was no reason why I should keep
 him so. I told him, I had no reason to
 conceal it from him, only, that she was
 removing so from place to place, to
 elude Lord Coleraine, that she scarce
 knew where she was herself. Mr. P.
 commended her for this, but, owned his
 Lordship’s account had surprized him,
 though he was now satisfied, and would
 say no more on the subject; only wish-
 ed Lord Melbourne would, according
 to promise, let her have some money,
 when

when he came to town, or he should be greatly inconvenienced. I told him, there was but little doubt of it, and he seemed contented; but, I now plainly saw I had sufficient to encounter, and was far from being happy, having a thousand things to perplex me, and no one to advise with, or open my mind to; for, I don't know any one comfort so great, as to have a friend to unbosom one's self to, in difficulties, though that friend can afford no assistance. I was daily called on by Mrs. Baddeley's friends of fashion, but, these were not such persons as I could talk with on our private concerns.

The next post brought me a long and affectionate letter from Mrs. Baddeley; containing,

containing, to my great surprize, a resolution, on her part, to stay and end her days where she was, and waiting only my answer on the subject, to determine her; that, she was more happy than she could express, but must have me with her; for a palace would be a dungeon without me; that Colonel Lutterell said he should be proud to have me with her; that, I had only to say the word, and all things would be made easy to me. “I will then,” said she, “give up all my friends in London, “and shall have nothing to do with “married men; for the Colonel is a “single one: with him I have done, “what cannot be undone, and, I do “not repent it; for, he is possessed of “a good heart, and I love him well
“ enough

“ enough to live happy with him for
“ life. Was I a princess, he could not
“ pay me more respect than he does ;
“ for, I have not a wish or a thought,
“ but he studies to gratify ; and, as I
“ am determined to be grateful on my
“ part, nothing shall take me from
“ him, unless you tell me you will not
“ live in this country ; so, send me
“ your dear answer, and I will then
“ tell you some news that will please
“ you.”

END OF THE FOURTH VOLUME,











